

PAME NOVELS

Front Mission 4 II

Front, 4th n



FRONT MISSION 4 エルザ #2



Naora Yusuke

square Enix

Toru Kotsu

Naora
Yusuke

秋津透

Akitsu Toru

エルザ #2



RetracuenON

Illustration
Naora
Yusuke

SQUARE ENIX.

C O N T E N T S

Mission 7

Wassau

7

MISSION 8

Near the Zaftran border

49

Mission 9

Nikolaev's Port

85

Mission 10

Iberian Megafloat

125

MISSION 11

Madeira

197

Mission 12

Final battle

231

Epilogue

284

Cover and frontispiece illustrations by Yusuke Naora

Text illustrations/Kinoshita Tomotake

Cover, obi, table of contents, chapter titles, character introduction

C H A R A C T E R S

Deeder Bosch

A former German officer who excels at strategic planning. He was a classmate of Captain Blauer Nebel Wagner during their time at the military academy. He is not very proactive and has a reserved personality. 34 years old.

Dieter Bosch

Beck Canova

Beck Canova

An Italian former soccer player with no military experience, he has a free and cheerful personality and dislikes following rules.

O T H E R S

Frederick Lancaster

A freelance journalist, he is investigating the German military base raids. He is a famous journalist who broke the » Sakata Industries Incident » as a result of his reporting during the Second Ottoman War.

Rolf Wagner

Rolf Wagner

of the German special forces, Blauer Nebel. 28 years old. Calm and collected, suitable for a commander.

Niklas Gleaser

Niklas Gleaser, commander of the German special forces Blauer Nebel. A hard- working soldier with a strict personality.

Fredrick Lancaster



R S RANDAL

Zeadon Elger

A former British military officer with ample experience, he is the commander of Durandal's combat unit.

45 years old. A polite and reliable father figure...

Elsa Eliane

Elsa Eliane

The protagonist of this story. A 22-year-old female new recruit in the Durandal corps. Formerly a Wanzer pilot in the IEC7 Lance Corps. Has no combat experience yet.

Hames Sturges

Durandal information analyst. He is the team's leader and excels in information processing using computers. 20 years old. Typical personality.

Latona Rodiona
Vasilev

Latona Rodiona Vasilev is a Wanzer pilot from the Zaftra's military. She has a long history in the military and is strict with herself and others. She is 28 years old.

Hermes Sturges



MISSION 7

バ
ッ
サ
ウ

Wassau

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

"We have entered German airspace. So far we have not received any communication from anywhere accusing us of intrusion», Captain Robert announced in a somewhat low voice.

"It appears the radar jamming device is working well."«So the next thing is to see how close we can get to the target point», Hermes, who was checking the detector, replied when Zead glared at him.

"The entrance to the Wassau pipeline will soon be within range of the detector. Once that happens, we should be able to get a rough idea of the level of security in place."«In the first place, if they're taking the trouble to guard an abandoned pipeline, that alone seems suspicious enough».

Bosch pointed this out with a wry smile.

"But that doesn't mean I can say anything more than that there are suspicions."

"If all they want is to present a suspicion, let Frederick Lancaster's men do it. If they're going to take the risk and go in, they need to get some hard evidence. It's not worth it."

Mission 7 Wassau

When Latona groaned with no amusement, Hermes spoke in a tense voice», Bud, there's a reaction from the bite! There are multiple large armed wanzers stationed on the ground near the pipeline entrance !»

Eyeing the monitor, Hermes continued.

"Identification signal confirmed! Wanzer belongs to the German Army, Blau, Unbel!"

"So Blauer Nebel was on guard after all."

Zead asks Hermes with a low growl.

"What about reactions from things other than the Wanzers? Have you noticed any signs that a large number of explosives have been planted ?"

"It doesn't seem to be within the range or scale that can be read by the transport plane's sensors."

Zead nodded vigorously in response to Hermes' reply.

"Very well, then we'll perform an airborne drop from directly above the pipeline entrance, crash into the control facility, and seize evidence.

`Captain, I'd like you to select the course, adjust the speed and altitude, and assist with the airborne landing.'" ``Understood. This time, I won't make a mistake like getting hit by a lucky chance and having to make an emergency landing," Captain Robert replied, and Zead nodded seriously.

"This time, unlike Poland, we are invaders, on enemy territory. We have to make an emergency landing.

If you are in such a bad state, you must prepare yourself to be captured.

"Yeah, I know."

The captain nodded, looking a little annoyed. Then Zead turned to us and said,

"Everyone, board your wanzers and prepare for airborne drop!"

"roger that!"

Latona, Bosch, and I responded almost reflexively, but Hermes, who isn't good with military ceremonies, had a slightly complicated look on his face. However, in the next moment, all of the members, including Hermes, ran towards the hangar at once.

"Countdown, five, four, three, two, one, descend!"

At Captain Robert's signal, I took the Wanzerr into the air. I had done the same thing just the other day in the new resource area of Poland, but this time there was no artillery fire attacking the transport plane from the ground.

"I wonder what you're planning, Blauer Nebel? Isn't it common sense in the defense fortress to attack the mother plane with all your might when an airborne force is about to land?» I was a little suspicious, but I landed on the ground and, together with the Latona plane that had landed ahead of me,

Mission 7 Wassau

Be vigilant of your surroundings.

Suddenly, Hermes's urgent voice came from the headset». Latona! Elsa! There's no need to wait for those behind us. Can you hurry to the gray building on the left ahead? That's the pipeline control facility! There are two Wanzers on guard in front of the building, so destroy them as quickly as possible and take control of the area!"«Leader, are you sure it's okay to follow Hermes' orders?"

Latona asked in a blunt tone, and Zead replied immediately.

"Please do so. If there's a problem, I'll fix it."

"Roger that. I'll ask for support from behind, please come quickly."

Without further ado, Latona's machine took off towards the building indicated by Hermes, and I immediately followed suit. And the moment the Blauer Nebel Wanzer in front of the building came into view, an explosive shell cannon was fired from the other side.

"Tsk! I was waiting for you!"

Clicking her tongue, Latona's unit quickly dodged the shells. Looking around, she saw that the enemy Wanzers in front of the building had one equipped with an explosive shell cannon, and the other equipped with dual weapons. It was easier to deal with than being attacked with missiles or rockets, but it was a difficult combination to attack if they were focused on defense.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

Moreover, the building is surrounded by a wire fence on a concrete base, which allows visibility but prevents quick approach. It's a structure that favors the defenders». The only unobstructed route to enter is the front gate. If we try to force our way in and get shot at by the explosive shell cannon, it'll be hard to dodge».

It seemed that Latona had the same sensation as me, and she groaned in annoyance as she circled around the blind spot of the explosive shell cannon-equipped aircraft at high speed.

"In fact, it would be better to break down the fence and enter from the side. However, in that case, we wouldn't be able to send two planes in at the same time».

"We can't enter at the same time, and the unit that goes in first won't be able to use link and will be attacked in pairs. That's way too dangerous. We should wait for the missile-equipped unit to arrive», I replied, and Zead's voice interrupted from the headset.

"Elsa's judgement is correct. Don't launch any unnecessary attacks. Wait for me to catch up."

"What? You mowed down so many Wanzers at the Kojo base, so you can't attack with an equal number of them?"

Latona yelled at Hermes for bringing out the unexpected corpse.

"Battle is not about arithmetic! If you try to attack an enemy that has the advantage on the ground, you will only suffer pointless losses!

Mission 7 Wassau

"Okay, okay! Let's hurry up and meet up--» Hermes' voice suddenly cracked, and Latona and I shouted at the same time.

"What's wrong?"

"We were being shot at by an armor-piercing cannon from the ground. Captain Robert quickly increased his altitude to dodge the attack, but we needed to regain our footing before we could parachute again."

Now that things have calmed down, Zead explains.

"Hermes and I are the only ones left on the transport. Bosch has landed safely. Can the three of you take control of the control facility? Please assess the situation and act accordingly. However, don't push yourself too hard."

"roger that"

I replied in a bitter tone, and Latona told me.

"If we hesitate too much, enemy Wanzers will gather around us and the situation will get worse. When Bosch arrives, we'd better consider charging in forcefully."

"That's right."

As I nodded, Bosch's unit came rushing in from behind. It was the same hybrid Wanzer I was using, with its Taarm Gunkimeratou arms replaced with Cicada mouths to increase the accuracy of its gunfire, but it was equipped with two machine guns. Compared to mine, which was equipped with a machine gun and a shotgun, the power and versatility when firing simultaneously was significantly lower, but in return it was much easier to handle.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

"Today?"

"The only way in is through the front gate. If you enter through there, you'll be a target for sniping."

When Bosch asks, Latona gives a brief explanation.

"But if we destroy the fence to make an entrance, we'll be targeted while we're working. Plus, if Elsa and I split up, we'll be unable to use our links and we'll be at a much greater risk of being taken out one by one, so I decided that."

"I see"

Bosch responded in his usual nonchalant manner.

"If that's the case, then a countermeasure can be seen. I'll destroy the fence and create a diversion, while you guys seize the opportunity and charge in head-on. The timing is up to you."

"Okay, let's go with that."

Latona immediately responded, urging the Wanzerr forward. I followed shortly after, but the Bosch machine maneuvered to the side on its own, firing its machine gun at the base of the fence.

Then, the explosive shell equipped machine began attacking the Bosch machine through the fence. The Bosch machine quickly dodged and continued its work of destroying the fence. Then, as the explosive shell equipped machine fired a second shot at the Bosch machine, Latona told me.

"Now! Let's charge in!"

Mission 7 Wassau

"Y/n!"

We drove the Wanzerr into the front gate at full speed. Then, as if it had been waiting for this, the explosive shell-equipped machine turned its gun towards us.

The enemy is not stupid. If you see the invasion force splitting into two, with one plane destroying the fence and the other moving towards the gate, it's easy to imagine that the plane destroying the fence was a diversion, while the two planes at the gate were waiting for an opportunity to break in.

But even so, the Blauer Nebel's explosive shell cannon-equipped machine launched an attack towards Bosch's machine. Even if it was just a diversion, perhaps it thought that if the fence was breached it would cause trouble later. Or perhaps it had deliberately created an opening to lure the enemy into coming through the gate, confident that it could be taken down. Judging by the speed of its response, it seems most likely to have been the latter, but the speed at which the Latona's explosive shell cannon-equipped machine charged completely threw off the calculations of the machine.

"slow!"

Before the enemy Wanzer could aim its explosive cannon, the Latona furiously closed in. The shells, fired in a panic, went flying in the wrong direction without the enemy even bothering to dodge.

And then, a two-armed Wanzer came out from behind the explosive shell cannon, and I half-assed it and opened fire with my machine gun, intending to use my machine gun and bazooka as an armoured attack. At the same time, Latona's machine fired pile bangs at the arm of the explosive shell cannon.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

I slammed the car and my unit within range of the link attack automatically fired its shotgun. This merciless bazooka armour

In a rapid two-stage attack, the explosive shell cannon-equipped machine's weapon was blown off along with its arm, and although it was not rendered inoperable, it lost all fighting capability and fell over.

'Meanwhile, the dual-weaponized aircraft that had dodged my machine gun fire seemed to have decided that it was impossible to defend the area after seeing its wingman quickly put out of action. It fired its machine gun wildly from a distance and began to slowly move towards the gate, mainly keeping Latona's aircraft in check, but then Bosch's aircraft, which had stopped destroying the fence and turned towards the gate, came in, and that was the end of it. Before Latona could even dive in and hit it, it was hit by a fierce pincer attack from myself and Bosch's machine guns firing from the front and back, and the dual-weaponized aircraft was instantly put out of action, and its pilot was ejected. **Arm Pazooka** Meanwhile, the former explosive shell

cannon-equipped Wanzer, which had lost its weapon and arm, was unable to get up properly and, in a half-crawling position, desperately ran away in the opposite direction. If all it wanted to do was escape, it would have been much quicker to get out of the Wanzer and run, but until it had stopped functioning and was ejected, it probably didn't even think of abandoning the machine. To be honest, I can understand how it felt. In any case, this operation was not of the nature to go out of its way to pursue and capture an enemy that had lost its fighting power and was fleeing. No sooner had the dual-weaponized machine become inoperable than Latona's voice came over the headset to tell Bosch.

"For now, we've eliminated the guarding Wanzers. Now we need to enter the control facility and control any remaining enemies.

Mission 7 Wassau

After we've put them under pressure, we'll check to see if there's anything that could serve as evidence, but enemy Wanzers will be gathering all around, so we can't all get off the Wanzers."«That's right. I'll enter the building first, so you guys stay in the Wanzers and keep guard in front of the building. If there are any enemies left inside the building and I can't handle them alone, I'll contact you and ask for backup».

Bosch replied immediately, and Latona responded in a slightly complicated voice.

"It would be a great help if you could do that. However, don't push yourself too hard alone."

"Oh, I'll be very careful."

Bosch answered nonchalantly as he parked his van in front of the entrance to the control facility, got off surprisingly quickly, and went inside the building.

Then Latona contacts Zead.

"The Vanzani aircraft stationed in front of the control facility have been eliminated. There has been no damage on our side. Bosch is currently inside the building.

How's the situation there?"

"We managed to make the airborne landing safely, but we've ended up engaged in combat with several Wanzers on the ground. We'll do our best to repel them and head in the direction to join you, so please wait a little longer», Zead replied calmly, but Latona asked in a sharp tone.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

“Are you and Hermes okay with it being just the two of you? If we need reinforcement, I’ll call back Bosch and have everyone move over there to join us».

"No, it's okay. I think there will be enemies on your side, but please manage to secure the control facility until we meet up».

As soon as Zead finished his call with those words, Bosch contacted him». The control facility is empty. I tried fiddling with the terminals, but the data related to the pipeline's operation has already been erased, and I can't read it with my technology. If Hermes can investigate, they might be able to find something».

we must secure the control facility until Leader and Hermes join us. Hurry back to the front of the building and get into the Wanzer», Latona said, dazzled as she spoke half to herself.

"In a mission like this, where we're forcing our way into enemy territory, it's not ideal to have to stay still and secure a fixed position. We need to move around as much as possible and not let the enemy figure out where we are, otherwise we'll be unable to deal with enemy reinforcements gathering from all around."

「Sure, I think that’s true.

But, this time, Blauer Nebel can't call for reinforcements either.

Mission 7 Wassau

were they guarding a pipeline entrance that wasn't even being used? If the German military police or something found out, they'd be in a pretty tough position», I pointed out, and she replied with a low chuckle.

"Oh, that's right. They wouldn't want the Germans in the region to mobilize and surround us in a major attack.

But, if the German Gendarmerie were to intervene, we would most likely be arrested without question as armed criminals caught in the act of trespassing. Even if the Blauer Nebel guys get into a difficult position, it's not worth it at all."

"We both want to avoid a big fuss."

Latona replied with a bit of sarcasm to me as I spoke as if it were none of my business.

«Whether it's the German army or the armies of other E.C. nations, to the average soldier who follows orders, there's no doubt that Durandal and Blauer Nebel are complete deviants. Although, I don't know if the Blauer Nebel guys are aware that they are deviants as soldiers».

"That's right. Looking at people like Major Wagner and Captain Dranz, they're not deviants at all. They believe that they are true soldiers».

And at that moment, Latona's voice suddenly became firm.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

"Oh, this is no time for chatter! Blauer Nebel's Wanzer has arrived !»

"Good. Looks like we made it in time."

With a calm voice, the Bosch machine stepped forward from the front door, and in my heart, I breathed a sigh of relief. Even if we weren't linked, in this case, having a total of two or three allies was a world of difference, and it was no exaggeration to say that.

"There are four enemy Wanzers in the effective range of my detector, on the other side of the gate in front of me. Two equipped with dual weapons, and one equipped with a machine gun and a shield. There don't seem to be any enemy planes with long-range weapons. And, at the moment, there's no sign of these four planes charging through the gate. It seems they're waiting for others to follow."

"Hmm, if they're not going to rush in, there's no need for us to leave."

Latona responded to Bosch's observation in a tone that sounded quite natural.

"Until the leaders join us, we should buy ourselves some time if we can. There's no need to rush into an attack."

"Yes, indeed."

Bosch agreed as if this was a given, but suddenly became nervous and said», New forces have appeared from the west. Two units... No, the large ones are the speaking units. Their armaments are still unknown, but judging from their output,

Mission 7 Wassau

Given that, it wouldn't be surprising if they were equipped with missiles."

"A large missile-equipped aircraft? If something like that really appears, we can't just stay at the base. We have no choice but to rush out and accept damage, close in quickly and destroy it. Is that correct?"

Latona asked in an urgent tone, and Bosch responded after a short pause.

"No, sorry for scaring you. It doesn't seem to be a missile-equipped machine. Though it is large, it has an unusually fast movement speed. It seems to be a high-output, heavily armored machine for front-line commanders."«Hmm. So even with heavy armor, it can move at a high speed without losing speed, allowing it to lead a unit. It may be a little better than the large missile-equipped machines that appear, but it's still a formidable opponent."

While Latona was growling in annoyance, my detector, which had a slightly narrower effective range than the Bosch's, also picked up the signal of a large aircraft. Indeed, the signal was undoubtedly that of a large aircraft, but it was approaching at the same speed as a normal Wanzer, or even faster than that.

Then Bosch dazzled a little.

"The front-line commander of Blauer Nebel? Perhaps it's Wagner."«If the pilot of that large aircraft is Wagner, is there anything we need to be particularly careful of?»

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

Bosch responded in a low voice to Latna's question.

"Among the Wanzer pilots I know, Wagner is one of the best close-range marksmanship experts. He's by no means bad at long-distance sniping, but he's terrifyingly skilled at reading his opponent's movements at close range and dodging them before firing a bullet.

So, some people have said with a straight face that if you find yourself in a close-range firefight with Wagner, it might be better to focus on attacking rather than trying to dodge."«Hmm. Maybe that makes him a good opponent for me."

Pile Bunker

Latona, who specialized in point-blank attacks with melee weapons rather than close range attacks, laughed at this, but I had a bad feeling about it.

Compared to Latona and Bosch, I have far less combat experience, but I am fairly confident in my ability to see through enemy attacks in an instant and dodge them. In the French Ventours unit, there was not a single pilot who could hit me with close-range fire, as long as we were paired together and using the same aircraft. After transferring to Durandal, I ended up fighting against unknown raiding forces and the German elite Blauer Nebel, but the only time my aircraft was hit by gunfire was when my arm was hit by an aircraft equipped with a long-range armor-piercing shell, and I was able to dodge all close-range fire from machine guns and shotguns. Of course, I think it was all a result of the situation and luck, but even so, it is objectively true that I am good at intuitive evasion.

Mission 7 Wassau

However, Wagner seems to be able to read the opponent's evasive moves and nullify them. This makes him, in a sense, my nemesis. Of course, if I knew in advance that he was going to be like that, I might be able to deal with him somehow, but it's difficult to consciously control an instant evasion, and if I think about something, my movements will be slower no matter what.

"Well, it hasn't been decided yet that Wagner will be the pilot of the large aircraft. At this point, we don't have time to think about unnecessary things».

Dazed and speechless, I kept my eyes on the movement of the large van shown on the detector. The large van approached the control facility in a straight line, but soon after it came into view over the fence, it suddenly changed direction.

"Hmm? Isn't this thing going to join the four Wanzers in front of the gate?"

Latona groaned suspiciously, and Bosch quickly replied.

"No, even if we joined up we wouldn't be able to charge in all at once, so it would just get in the way of our allies. The large plane is probably planning to charge in alone from the spot where I've half-destroyed the fence."«I see. Then of course the plan is for the guys at the gate to charge in at the same time and attack from both sides.

I won't let that happen!」

The Blauer Nebel guys probably don't know this, but we had just defeated the enemy defending the control facility using almost the same strategy. That was why Latona's reaction was so quick.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

"I'll destroy the four planes in front of the gate one by one!" "Y/n!"

Latona and I ran furiously to the gate and jumped out. Bosch followed behind us at a slight delay, keeping an eye on the large aircraft that had broken through the fence to the side and was about to enter.

As Latona's machine gun charged forward with incredible force, the four enemy Wanzers fired their machine guns at once, but instead of dodging, she blocked the bullets with the shield on her right arm.

Arms no good No matter how much he blocked it with his shield, damage to his arm was unavoidable, but rather than taking the time to forcibly avoid the attack as it narrowed, he must have decided in an instant that it would be more advantageous to force his way through the gate and close the distance.

Then, the Latona machine quickly closed the distance and slammed its pile bunker into the nearest machine equipped with two weapons. The enemy machine received a powerful blow and was blown backwards by the force, colliding with its wingman and toppling over. Without giving it time to get up, I fired my machine gun and shotgun at the same time, rendering both machines inoperable and their pilots ejected.

Meanwhile, Latona's machine was attacking the third enemy, a Vanza I, which was unexpectedly formidable. It was not equipped with two weapons, but with a machine gun on its left arm and a shield on its right arm, which placed emphasis on defense. **type** Although this is a unit that is usually used by inexperienced soldiers, it is quite impressive, skillfully using its shield to tenaciously fend off the onslaught of the Latona unit. Furthermore, the fourth enemy unit, equipped with the same equipment, is Link.

Mission 7 Wassau

They work so well together that it seems as if they are on guard, holding back Latona's machine and preventing it from getting in. As expected of Blauer Nebel, they are worthy of being called the strongest Wentour unit in the German army, no, E.C.'s strongest.

However, if I hesitate here, I'll be pincered by the large machine that's coming around from behind. Knowing the danger, I force my way in between the two enemy Wanzers. One of them fires its machine gun, but I see it at the last moment and dodge with minimal movement. I'm only able to perform this feat because I'm using a Tatou, which is far more agile than a normal Wanzer.

Having lost its main weapon, the enemy unit still attempted to slam its remaining shield into Latona's unit, but as she specializes in close combat, there was no way she could withstand such an attack. She dodged them and leapt at the last unit, piercing it deeply with a pile bunker, almost to the center of the fuselage, near the computer core. Unlike the mysterious assault force, the Wanzers used by Blauer Nebel were basically units whose performance and structure were already known, so she was unsure of where to aim in order to stop the computer without harming the pilot.

Quickly dodging the enemy's attack, I forcefully turned my plane half a turn and started firing my machine gun. Even if I hit, it wouldn't be fatal, but both enemy planes hurriedly evaded, and the teamwork clearly fell apart. Then, Latona's plane took advantage of the gap and struck with a pile bunker, **Machine Gun Arm**

"now!" Destroy the enemy aircraft's machine gun along with its arm.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

Latona knew it all well, but even if you knew your opponent's weak spots, it took extraordinary skill to attack them accurately.

However, it was too early to take a breather. A large wanzer had broken through the fence and circled around from the side of the facility, charging towards us. With the four allies that were supposed to coordinate and pincer attack easily destroyed one by one, one would normally expect them to retreat for the time being, or at least hesitate a little, but there was no sign of that at all.

"It's coming!"

With a warning, the Bosch machine at the very rear fired its machine gun. The large machine, either not agile enough to dodge, or like Latona earlier, not intending to dodge from the start, continued charging forward unfazed despite taking the Bosch's attack head-on, firing wildly from the two large machine guns it held in both hands.

"Wow!"

The Bosch machine dodged in a way that seemed a little dramatic. However, the next moment, right next to where he had dodged, a bullet from a large machine gun with incredible power exploded. If he had made even the slightest movement to dodge, it would have been hit perfectly and rendered completely inoperable». With a weapon with such high firepower, and two of them at that, swinging around, there's no way to defend yourself with a shield."

Mission 7 Wassau

One hit would surely blow off the whole arm. No, if it was just the arm, it would be a stroke of luck, in all likelihood the damage would extend to the torso, rendering it inoperable, I thought to myself as I groaned bitterly as the Latona machine circled around in the opposite direction to the Bosch machine. Of course, I followed the Latona machine, which was linked to me. However, the larger machine was firing its machine gun as it retreated. It was certainly true that the enemy was

the enemy is dispersed, the most common tactical approach is to eliminate them one by one, starting with the weakest, but that doesn't seem to be the case. It feels like he's being stubborn, dodging a blow that should never have been dodged. To have that much confidence in his own shooting, I thought that the pilot of the large aircraft must be a Wagner I.

continues to dodge the relentless fire of the large aircraft chasing him - without metaphor or exaggeration - literally by the skin of his teeth. He called Wagner an expert in close-range shooting, but it seems that Bosch himself is an expert at evading attacks, surpassing even that expert. This may be possible only because, like me earlier, he is piloting a Tatoon, the most agile Wanzler available on the commercial market, but even so, it is a feat that would be impossible if the pilot did not have advanced skill and natural instincts. At least, if you ask me if I could do it, I'm not confident.

And while Bosch continued to dodge with all his might, Latona and I closed the gap from behind the large aircraft. However, the pilot of the large aircraft, who seemed to be Wagner, was not so lenient as to let us perform a link attack as it was.

"Wow!"

Suddenly, the large machine turned around and fired the large machine gun on its left hand. It was a careless and cold movement, as if it was shooing away a clinging insect, but its aim was terrifyingly accurate, and Latona's machine dodged in an instant, only for the attack to be read and attacked. It reflexively defended with a shield, so it was not disabled in one hit, but its right arm, along with the shield, was completely destroyed.

"Latona!"

At that moment, unable to grasp the extent of the damage to the Latona, I instinctively ran over to it. Thinking about it calmly later, I realized that even if the damage to my wingman had been serious, there was nothing I could have done to fix it, so I should have quickly retreated and gotten out of the range of the larger aircraft, but that is only hindsight. As a result, I ended up jumping out in front of the large aircraft that was pointing its large machine gun at me.

"depression!"

In reality, it was less than a second, but I felt the muzzles of the two large machine guns pointed directly at me, and my whole body froze. On the one hand, I felt that I had to dodge, but on the other hand, I was sure that even if I did, he would read my plan. Regardless of whether the opponent was Wagner or not, Latona had been read all the way. I did not have the skill of Bosch, who could dodge beyond that reading.

"Then—."

Mission 7 Wassau

In the next moment, I advanced towards the large aircraft and fired my machine gun and shotgun at the same time. A normal Wanzel could be rendered inoperable with one hit, but the armor of the large aircraft seemed to be very sturdy, and although I was sure I had hit it, it didn't seem to have done any noticeable damage.

And then, without a moment's hesitation, the large machine gun aimed at me roared and began firing. I'm not sure if I was unconsciously trying to dodge and it was read, or if I just couldn't dodge at all, but in the end, I received a direct hit. Before I could even think I was done for, all the display screens and alarm calls turned an eye-burning crimson and a harsh, synthesized warning voice rang out from the headset. Emergency
Emergency Bailout

"Emergency situation! Emergency situation! Ejection!"

At this point, there was nothing the pilot could do. Still gripped by a surreal feeling, like a nightmare, I was automatically ejected from the Ventour, which had become inoperable and collapsed, along with the cockpit.

Come to think of it, I have never faced a situation where my Ventour was shot down and I had to make an emergency escape by ejection. Well, that's because I don't have much combat experience, but in any case, this was my first experience of ejection in a real fight, and I'd be lying if I said I wasn't shocked in many ways.

I am originally the type of person who, when I find myself in a difficult situation, rather than thinking too hard about what to do, just gets moving.

I have a temperament that puts the other person first, and I learned how to move my body in an emergency evacuation from my time in the French army.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

The cockpit was ejected and landed on the ground with a heavy thud, and at the same time, I quickly unbuckled my shock-resistant belt, unplugged the headset connection cord from the adapter, opened the hatch and jumped out of the cockpit.

But the next moment, I was forced to stop all movement, as if frozen at cryogenic temperatures. A large Blauer Nebel Wanzer approached with an intimidating operating sound, and aimed its large machine gun directly at me.

"Do not move. If you do, you will be shot on impact. This is your final warning, not just an empty threat."

« Wagner"

I groaned softly, unable to move. The cold voice announcing through the large aircraft's external loudspeaker was undoubtedly that of Major Wagner, commander of the Browne I Bell. Wagner continued speaking in a monotone.

"To all Durandal Wanzer pilots who have illegally entered the pipeline facility, I am ordering you to immediately exit your Wanzers, drop your weapons, and surrender.

If you surrender, your lives are guaranteed. If you resist, we will consider you armed terrorists and shoot all of you, including the pilots who escaped from the Wanzers».

"Shoes::•• "

I felt a strong sense of frustration and defeat that I had never felt when the Wanzer was defeated, and I clenched my leg.

Mission 7 Wassau

I gritted my teeth. I had given the enemy their strongest trump card, a hostage. I thought about just running away, prepared to be shot, but if I moved, Wagner would shoot without hesitation, and even if the hostage was gone, it wasn't like the situation would improve much. However, from the moment the large machine gun was pointed at me, my legs and body had been paralyzed, so I couldn't actually run away. It was a pathetic story, but you can't really understand how terrifying it is to have a Wanzer point a weapon at you while you're still bare-bodied unless you've been on the receiving end of it.

threw away both of the machine guns it had mounted on both hands.

"Is this okay, Major Rolf Wagner?"

"Is that voice Dieter Bosch? I heard that you left the military and joined Durandal, but I never thought I'd meet you here..."

Wagner's voice took on a hint of human emotion, but he quickly resumed his cold tone as he proclaimed:

"Then you won't be disarmed. Get out of your Wanzer immediately. I'll attack that pile bunker- equipped unit over there too!»

At that moment, a missile flew in and hit Wagner's plane, creating a tremendous roar and blast.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

The impact released me from my paralysis, and without even understanding what had happened, I half-rolled and dove into the shadow of the ejected cockpit. I was so lost in thought that I hadn't even thought about running away from Wagner.

In hindsight, if Wagner had fired his large machine gun at the same time the missile hit, I would have been blown to pieces along with the cockpit. But fortunately, Wagner didn't fire on me.

Was it a surprise attack and he didn't have time to do so? Or was it a direct hit from the missile that damaged his weapon or arm and prevented him from firing ? Or was it his pride as a soldier who always does the right thing and avoided killing in an unclear situation? No one knows this except Wagner himself. And without a moment's hesitation, the Latona came charging forward with the force of a wounded beast. Wagner's large machine gun fired wildly, but it seemed to have serious damage somewhere, and it couldn't aim and couldn't hit its target. The Latona quickly closed the distance and rammed Wagner's machine at the same speed. At the moment of impact, he swung his left arm and slammed the pile bunker into the fuselage with all his might. I described it as if I had seen it, but in reality, I was crouching low in the shadow of the ejected cockpit, holding my head in my hands. The roar of the wanzers fighting in close proximity is overwhelming to the naked ear, like an earthquake or thunder, leaving no time to imagine what is going on.



GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

When the sounds of the fierce battle finally died down and everything around us became quiet, I cautiously rose from the shadow of the cockpit. I saw the huge body of Wagner's machine slumped over and come to a halt. Armpits

Next to it stood the Latona machine, black smoke rising from its destroyed right arm, and a little further away was the undamaged Bosch machine, its machine gun aimed.

"Elsa! Are you okay?"

Apparently noticing me, Latona called out to me over the external loudspeaker.

"I'm fine! I'm not hurt anywhere!"

I tried to respond, but the external listening device on the Wanzer wasn't accurate enough to pick up a live voice. Realizing this, I waved my hand vigorously towards the Latona.

"Ah, it looks like you're safe. That's good."

When Latona let out a relieved Shido, it was Bosch who spoke nonchalantly.

"Zead and Hermes are approaching very close. It goes without saying that the missile just now was fired by Zead at its maximum range.

Then, when Wagner escaped from the Wanzer, I had abandoned my machine gun, so he was able to get away. Of course, taking such a dangerous guy prisoner would be troublesome in its own way.

And so, I don't know if Wagner gave the orders, but the remaining Blauer Nebel machines,

Mission 7 Wassau

For the time being, they are retreating. It seems that the destruction of the commander's plane has had an impact. So, although I don't know how much time they have, it looks like they can take a breather for now».

"yes "-

I felt relieved, but then, strangely enough, even at this point, the color suddenly drained from my face and I broke out into a cold sweat.

"...How horrible. I'm surprised I didn't die."

I vividly recalled the ominous muzzle of the large machine gun pointed at me, and I shuddered.

"Certainly, all the data has been completely erased."

After checking the computer system of the control facility, Hermes groaned with a difficult expression on his face». In the end, this pipeline can be used immediately, but there is no proof that it has been used up until now. Moreover, there is no trace anywhere of the troops that attacked the German army base or the new resource areas in Poland having passed through it.

why a pipeline that was supposed to have been decommissioned was so meticulously maintained and even heavily guarded by elite troops, but that's about it.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

There is not enough evidence to make the German Government excuse itself and say», I'm afraid."

"So it's merely a strengthening of circumstantial evidence."

Zead groaned, frowning.

"It seems we must now make our first choice.

Should we withdraw to HQ with these results? Or should we continue our investigation? If we withdraw, the German government, ZAFTRA, or whoever we are investigating will likely strengthen their defenses as much as possible in the meantime.

Bosch spoke in a thoughtful tone.

Currently, Bosch and Latona are on guard outside the control facility aboard a Wanzer, but under Zead's instructions, Hermes has connected the communications line, making it possible for them to take part in the discussion, even if only as corpses.

"Unless we can obtain an official position, there's not much point in withdrawing and then going back and investigating again, and in fact, I think it's nearly impossible».

「Yeah. That's why I brought all the equipment I could carry.

We've finished repairing Latona's machine, and we can adequately configure a replacement for Elsa's machine with the equipment we have, so there's no need for us to return to HQ».

When Hermes responded, Latona interjected with a slightly irritated look on her face.

Mission 7 Wassau

"So, if you're going back to headquarters, that means this is the end, right? To be honest, I wonder what you were trying to do there, but if anything, isn't the issue of whether you can continue your investigation further or not?"

"That's right. Now, let's talk about the prospects if we proceed with the investigation further."

Saying that, Zead calmly began his explanation.

"For now, Wassau is the only place on the German side that may hold clues. Therefore, if we were to continue our investigation further, I have determined that there would be no other effective method than to infiltrate Saafta.

Of course, if we infiltrate Zaftra, the danger will be even greater. In Germany, unless we make a huge mistake, I think it would be possible to avoid fighting with units other than Blauer Nebel, but that's not the case in Zaftra. The almost endless Zaftran army will turn against us, no questions asked. If we fight honestly, we won't have enough lives."

"I think everyone already understands the dangers of infiltrating Zaftra."

Latona responded in a brusque tone.

"What I want to know is whether there is a way to avoid that danger, obtain the evidence, and return alive. If we have no choice but to charge head-on, I too think it would be best to return to HQ while we are still alive, isn't that the case?"

"That depends on your definition of» attacking head-on."

Zead answered in a very serious tone.

"If they are entering Zaftra through illegal means, they have no choice but to break through the border somewhere and charge in. Since we don't have any ships, we have to choose between air, land, or via pipeline."

"If we were to invade Zaftra in a Durandal transport, we'd only be able to skim the border. If we went in even a little deeper, we'd be bombarded with anti-aircraft missiles and air defense fighter jets, and no matter how hard Captain Robert tries, there's no way he'd return alive», Hermes said as if it were a matter of course, and Bosch responded with a sigh.

"In other words, traveling by air is essentially not that different from traveling by land.

it's extremely difficult to evade the border guards of Zaftra and get into the country. And once we're inside Zaftra, it's not like we'll have achieved our goal."«That's right. If we invade by land, the biggest problem is that we have no idea where to go to get evidence of the pipeline's use. The most likely place is Kursk Station, which had direct flights to Wassau before it was abolished, but to be honest, I don't think it's possible to get to Kursk, which is far from the border, by land or air. Plus, getting evidence and escaping alive is hopeless no matter how you look at it».

Mission 7 Wassau

I asked a little skeptically, as Hermes just shrugged.

"So does that mean the best way to infiltrate is through the pipeline?"«By a process of elimination, yes."

Hermes answered simply, but I was not convinced and pressed on.

"But this pipeline is completely managed and controlled by Zaftra, right? That means we're being monitored by Zaftra, and we're going to have to go straight in».

"Well, that's not the case. Special vehicles are used to travel along the pipeline, but the vehicles waiting in Wassau have a completely independent control system», Hermes said, grinning.

"I think it's probably for confidentiality reasons, and in fact, because they use that kind of system, they could do something as reckless as just deleting all the control data.

However, if we can tamper with the independent system and use it in reverse, we can hide the fact that the vehicle is moving from the ZAFTRA control system, or we can send dummy data to confuse it. If we do it well, we might not even notice that we have entered the pipeline».

"No, you shouldn't take it so lightly."

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

Latona objected in a scolding tone.

“Once we leave, the Blauer Nebel guys will naturally return to the control facility and investigate. Then, just by counting the number of vehicles remaining, it will be obvious that we have entered the pipeline, right?

Since the vehicle is actually moving, no matter how well you can fool the computer, it's not like you can hide it well.”

“Yeah, that's certainly true.”

Hermes groaned, frowning.

“But if we just displayed one more vehicle than the actual number, maybe people wouldn't bother to cross-check it... No, that's not it. All the data has been erased, so even if we did something like that, it would just look unnatural and there would be no point.

Okay. If we enter the pipeline, we will assume that this fact will be immediately revealed to the Zafra side.

“That would be better. We can't entrust our lives to unfounded optimism», Latona responded immediately, then continued speaking in a stern tone.

“If that happens, then if it becomes known that we have entered the pipeline, it would be common sense for the Zafra side to strengthen the defenses of the pipeline's exit, the Kursk Station. I'm sure that station,

Mission 7 Wassau

Right nearby is one of the largest Wanzer unit bases in Zaftra, so there should be no shortage of defensive forces.

If you jump in there, no matter how much trickery you try, it will be completely useless. It will be like a moth flying into a flame."«Well, it's true that when the pipeline was in use, the only flights that went to and from Wassau were direct flights to Kursk. But that doesn't mean that there aren't physical pipes connecting it to the other stations."

brought up a complex diagram on the handheld communicator in her hand, similar to a subway map of a large city.

"I think the image should now appear on the Wanzer's communications monitor. What do you think?"«Yes, I can see it.

Is this a route map for the Zaftra Pipeline?

Hermes nodded in response to Bosch's question.

"Exactly. I had anticipated something like this happening, so I obtained it via a different route. As you can see, the pipeline that connects to Wassau is a straight line with no branches outside of Zaftra. However, before it reaches Kursk Station, as soon as it enters Zaftra, it connects to a large branching junction.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

It should be possible to remove the train from the direct route to Kursk here, and then, at least in theory, we'd be free to go to any station. We could just find a place where the defenses are thin and get out».

it would take a considerable amount of time to deploy sufficient forces to all of the pipeline stations».

Latona groaned, as if reluctantly admitting it.

"But if you go to a station other than Kursk, will that provide any evidence?"

"I'm not saying it's absolutely certain, but I think it'll probably be okay.

"No matter where it is, any station that's currently operating should be able to access the management data for the entire Zaftra Pipeline, and there should be records of the smuggling resources and raiding forces moving towards Wassau. Unlike the record data at the ends, the management data for the entire pipeline can't be changed or deleted so easily."

As if by mutual consent, everyone else was silent for a moment, pondering Hermes' passionate speech, and then Latona suddenly glared at him.

"It's pretty much down to luck, and the risks are great, but it doesn't seem as foolish as throwing your gear on the floor right now and yelling that you can't do this.

I'll ride."

Mission 7 Wassau

"I see. If you say so, knowing the actual situation of the Zaftran border Guard, then maybe it's not such a bad idea."

Bosch growled in a tone that sounded a little unsure of itself.

"I'm really worried. Infiltrating through the pipeline offers less freedom of movement than using the air or land routes, and I can't help but feel like I'd quickly become a rat in a cage."«It's understandable that you would think that, but to be honest, I was taken aback by the fact that they would come through the pipeline», Latona replied in a serious voice.

"If I was caught off guard, it would be a surprise attack that the majority of the Zaftra's military had never imagined, and of course, had not prepared for. In that respect, the chances of success are not as low as you think».

"I see. Since Zaftra has used the pipeline to send in Wanzer units, I expected that the other side would do the same, and I predicted that they would have some sort of countermeasure in place, but is that not the case?"

Botusch asked, and this time Latona chuckled softly.

"May I say so myself, but the majority of the Zaftra soldiers do not have such imaginations. At least, when I was in the border guards, there was no one with enough imagination to worry that the enemy might use a pipeline to cross the border. Of course, the military commanders at that time

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

I don't know everything about what the Guidance was worried about and what countermeasures they had put in place, and even more so now.

However, because of this, we don't know how the Zafran army will react if it is actually caught off guard. There is a possibility that they will be stunned and unable to react, but there is also a possibility that they will lose their minds and resort to sudden, violent action. It's best to keep that in mind."«Sudden, violent action? What exactly could happen?» I asked hesitantly, sensing an uneasy atmosphere. Latona responded frankly.

"Yes, maybe the Zafran army will try to blow up the pipeline, taking all of us inside it with them».

"Huh? The Zafran army?"

Hermes looked shocked and let out a strange cry.

, I thought that if the Germans wanted to hide the fact that the pipeline was in use at all costs, they might blow up the pipeline facilities in Wassau. But that's just a terminal station that's not supposed to be in use. Destroying the pipeline itself is a completely different story.

Also, if the Zafran army were to destroy the pipeline, would they really go outside the country and do it openly?

Mission 7 Wassau

"But they probably can't do that, so they have no choice but to do it domestically. If they destroy the pipeline in such a place close to the junction, it will affect other lines, and recovery won't be easy. It's no exaggeration to say that ZAFTRA is maintaining the nation's economic activity through its pipeline network, so would they do something like that that would put a noose around their own neck?" «That's why I said it was an outrageous act."

Latona declared in a slightly annoyed tone.

"Well, if you think about it rationally, rather than forcibly preventing an intrusion by destroying the pipeline, it would be a much more effective countermeasure to patiently track the intruders' movements and deploy security forces to stations that are at risk of being attacked.

is a commander in the Zaftran army who can stay calm and take effective measures when an unexpected situation occurs. At least, I don't think there is anyone like that». 1J Of course, if such a calm and capable commander was in charge of Zaftra's defenses, we would immediately find ourselves in a desperate situation», Bosch pointed out, returning to his usual nonchalant tone.

"However, if the commander is not calm and competent, there is a possibility that he will resort to the reckless act of destroying the pipeline. That would be troublesome in itself." «Indeed, if the Zaftran army destroys the pipeline, we will be unable to move forward physically,

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

The investigation into the surface will be thwarted.

But at the same time, the Zafran army's means of sending in special forces to attack key points in E.C. will be blocked, even if only temporarily», Zead said in a calm tone after having been silent for a while up to this point.

it would be best if we could obtain irrefutable evidence that would convince the German and Zafran governments, expose the conspiracy, and reveal the truth.

But even without going that far, disabling the pipeline would at least disrupt the plot's progress.

It's worth the risk to try."

"I see. If you think about it like that, it makes sense to use a pipeline."

Bosch made a voice of understanding, and Zead looked at me and asked.

"What do you think, Elsa?"

"Well, I just want to confirm one thing. Approximately how fast can this pipeline vehicle go?»

When I asked the question that had been on my mind, Hermes immediately replied», It seems that the maximum speed is over 400 kilometers per hour, but you can't maintain that speed from departure to arrival. On average, I'd say it's around 200 to 300 kilometers per hour.

Mission 7 Wassau

And from Wassau to the Zaftran border is about 1,000 kilometers. I think we can get there in about four hours."

"Four hours, huh? It will take Zaftra's side to receive the message, grasp the situation, discuss how to respond, make a decision, issue the order, and mobilize their forces...that's a delicate time to see if we can outwit them», I told Zead as I heard Latona groan.

"If that's the case, I think we should act as quickly as possible. If we give the Zaftra side some leeway and they deal with the situation calmly, our chances of achieving results will only get smaller».

"That's true."

In response to my comment, Zead nodded with a serious expression.

"Well then, let's hurry and get ready."

MISSION 8

ザ
フ
ト
二
境
付
近

Near the
Zaftra
border

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

"So far, there are no signs that anyone is attempting any sabotage», Hermes declared, standing in a small room filled with instruments at the front of the pipeline vehicle as it departed for Zaftra, and glancing at the display screen of the computer that had been brought in from the transport plane». Probably, they won't have any way to sabotage the vehicle until it enters Zaftra. Of course, we can't just assume that and let our guard down."

"Hmm.

they probably don't want the E.C. countries to know that the pipeline, which was supposed to have been abolished, was still in operation, as is the case with Závtra, they are not as keen as Germany. They probably can't do anything flashy within the territory of Austria and the Czech Republic, which are members of the E.C. However, they may launch a counterattack if they enter Ukraine, which is a vassal state .

Latona reacts to the seed's attack.

"Ukraine may be seen as a vassal state of Zaftra from the perspective of other countries, but the reality is quite complicated. In particular, if Zaftra forces enter Ukrainian territory without prior permission, the Ukrainian government and military will

Mission 8 Near the Zaftran border

Whatever the circumstances, they will strongly oppose it.

I know of several cases where the Zaftran border guards, pursuing armed smugglers into Ukrainian territory, encountered Ukrainian troops and came close to fighting. The Zaftra side assumed that the Ukrainians were in cahoots with the smugglers, but the Ukrainians say that the Zaftra's military is a much more nefarious villain than the smugglers.

"I see. So you two are neighbors who don't like each other and don't trust each other at all, but you can't cut off all ties and so you just keep going."

Latona nodded with a wry smile at Bosch's opinion.

「Well, that's about it.

Of course, there are many people on the Zaftra side who have no understanding of the anti-Zaftra sentiments in Ukraine and insensitively treat them as a vassal state, which is another source of trouble.

However, if you ask me whether the Zaftran army would go to the trouble of going to Ukrainian territory in this emergency and cause trouble, I can confidently answer that they would not».

"Really.

So, if anything were to happen, it would only happen after we enter Zaftra country."

Zead groaned, and this time Hermes responded.

We have plans in place for the case that the pipeline is destroyed between the Zafran border and the junction, and for the case that we manage to get all the way to the junction. If the pipeline is destroyed before the junction, we don't know how far we'll be able to move after that, but we'll retreat as far as we can and escape from a position closer to the border than the destroyed point. We'll probably have to abandon most of our supplies. But I think we can take with us the bare minimum of spare parts and ammunition in small self-propelled containers.

Then, as soon as we get to the ground, we'll change the legs to hover legs."«Oh, that's right. If we're using a self-propelled container, the container's legs have to be hover legs as well. There's no point if the container can't go to places the Wanzer can go», Latona pointed out, and Hermes nodded, frowning.

「Ah, I see. I hadn't thought of that.

Well, I have a spare hovercraft, so I think we'll make it just in time. I thought I had brought it with plenty of time to spare."

"Unforeseen circumstances always happen."

Latona responded with a serious expression.

"So, what do you do if you get into the junction?"«In that case, you stay in the pipeline as long as possible. Inside the junction,

Mission 8 Near the Zaftran border

The pipeline is intricately connected, so even if one or two are destroyed, they can go around and use another route, and even if the Zaftran army is strong, they can't destroy so many pipelines that are currently sending supplies.

So, if we can get inside the junction, we can probably achieve our goal of collecting data from an operating station. Of course, I'm not saying that escaping afterwards will be easy either, but I think it'll be harder to be caught if we travel as close to the border as possible via pipeline, rather than going above ground and escaping in a Wanzer».

Listening to Hermes' explanation, Latona groaned and made a sour expression.

"That seems like a pretty optimistic prediction. Unlike the E.C. and USN militaries, the Zaftra's military doesn't really care about the impact that their operations will have on the lives of their own citizens and their own economic activities.

In the first place, the upper echelons of the Zaftra's military have a strong tendency to push through even if they know it will cause losses to their own forces, in order to crush the enemy. Moreover, their basic stance towards the general public is to cooperate with the military in silence, without making selfish demands. Even inside the junction, you should prepare yourself for the possibility of pipeline destruction».

"I see. So , where and under what circumstances will it come out of the pipeline? The timing becomes an issue».

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

Zead spoke firmly to the groaning Hermes.

"In that case, we just have to adapt. If you show us the plan, it is up to me to decide when, where and how to execute it.

So. Once we enter Zafta, we will probably be in a constant state of non-stop activity, so I want you all to get some rest while you can. I will also be resting.

However, we can't all fall asleep, so we'll have two people stand guard. I'll ask you, Latona and Elsa, to keep watch at first. When the time is up, Bosch and I will take over. Hermes, you can rest at your own discretion. You said that there was still work that needed to be done».

"Hmmm, first I need to adjust a set of spare hover legs so that they can be attached to the self-propelled container. There are a few other adjustments left to make, but once that's done I'll take a proper rest», Hermes said, and quickly headed to the rear of the vehicle.

"If anything unusual happens, call me right away."

With that, Zead and Bosch left, leaving only Latona and me behind.

"Phew.

I never dreamed I would end up returning to my homeland in this way."

Latona looked at me dazed, half talking to herself, and asked:

Mission 8 Near the Zaftran border

"Elsa's home country is France, right? Do you have any relatives back home?" «Yes, my parents, grandparents, and brothers are all still alive. But there are a lot of military men in my family, so not everyone lives back home», I replied, and Latona nodded with a small smile.

"I envy you. I have almost no relatives. Although, it's true that that's why I was able to do something as reckless as quitting the Zaftran army and staying in E.C». Saying this, Latona began to speak without asking any questions». My father died when I was twelve years old. He was about to enter military school. Apparently my father was quite reckless when he was younger, but he fell ill just before he married my mother, and in my memory he was a sickly man who was always coughing and would fall asleep as soon as it got a little cold. So when he passed away, I had a strong feeling that it was something that was bound to happen. To be honest, every time my father fell ill, my mother would go out of her way to look after him, so I was more worried about her. There's no doubt that I was very sad when my father finally passed away, but it's also true that I was relieved that this would reduce my mother's burden.

In fact, my mother was my whole world to me when I was a child. My mother was a soldier in the Zaftra's military, and was a hero who had received many medals for her military achievements in suppressing the civil war and border conflicts as an excellent tank unit commander. When the Zaftra's military began to fully introduce the Wanzer,

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

He was deeply involved and apparently even worked as a test pilot. He married my father late, so by the time I was old enough to understand, he had already practically retired from the military, but he was still called into the military as an advisor and was treated as a celebrity in the area, so he was quite busy with a lot of things. I think he held the rank of honorary colonel.

Born as the only daughter of such a mother, I joined the military and set out on the path to becoming a Wanzer pilot without much question. As the daughter of a hero, I suppose I stood out, for better or worse, but my mother was a person who valued honor, fairness, and practicality, and never sought any unfair advantage for her daughter. After all, she even told me, who had just graduated from military academy, that if a young person like me tried to act like an elite in a department with few hardships, I would surely become dull and useless in no time. She told me to go serve in the border patrol and get my hands on plenty of mud."«....You had a fine mother."

Although, I thought, that was usually something a father would say to his son, I added silently.

And Latona continues speaking calmly.

was sent to E.C. by military order to exchange wanzer techniques and tactics. According to my mother, who was a combat veteran, this was a mission to appear elite in a department with few hardships, but perhaps she thought I had already put in enough hardships in the Border Patrol, so she didn't object. Or rather, I heard later that

Mission 8 Near the Zaftran border

However, it seems that my mother asked a general she was close to to have me added to the E.C. detachment. Given my mother's beliefs, which I knew, this was an almost impossible act, but maybe she had a premonition of something.

And within six months of me being deployed to E.C., my mother suffered a cerebral hemorrhage, collapsed, and passed away. My superior officer recommended that I take special leave and return to my hometown, but to my surprise, my mother had left a will in which she made it clear that even if she died, she did not want her daughter to be interrupted from her mission and return home».

"Th-that is it ?"

"Don't even come back for the funeral», I blurted out in a confused voice», doesn't that mean you're cutting off all ties with them?» Latona responded with a complicated expression that was somewhere between a smile and a wry smile». I was surprised and hesitant too, but in the end I decided to follow my mother's will and continue my mission without returning home. My superiors and those around me interpreted this as me being considerate, as even the death of a parent was a private matter and I should not let it interfere with my military service, which was a public duty, and praised him for being so different from those who are called heroes, but I didn't think so. A long time ago, when my father was ill and bedridden, my mother always took care of him herself, even if it interfered with her military duties.

What on earth was my mother thinking when she left such a will? After much thought, I came to the conclusion that perhaps she felt that the changes occurring in the Zaftran army were dangerous.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

that the Zafra's military, which had previously focused on group tactics centered on long-distance attack units, began to strongly adopt the idea of surprise attacks by a small number of elite units with special abilities. I think that special operations units, who would rather commit suicide than be captured, probably existed before then, but they were more of a behind-the-scenes, dirty job, and for ordinary Zafra soldiers, being assigned to such a department felt more like punishment than anything else. Whether or not that feeling was appropriate, the change in policy by the Zafra's military's upper echelons, which positioned special operations units as elites and selected and appointed outstanding soldiers, would have seemed horrifying to my mother, who was an old-fashioned soldier.

And then, the Sakata Industry incident came to light, supporting this speculation. The idea of using the brains of outstanding soldiers to directly control the Wanzers is exactly what the current Zafra's military dreams of: super soldiers who specialize in combat and sacrifice themselves for the good of others. Whether or not you can call such a person an elite is aside for now».

« So, if I had stayed in the Zafra's military, there's a chance that you might have ended up getting caught up in something like Sakata Industries' experiments?» I asked breathlessly, and Latona tilted her head slightly.

"Well, I don't know. It may have happened, or it may not have happened. At least on the surface, Sakata Industries went bankrupt, and the research into super soldiers was sealed away.

Mission 8 Near the border with JFtra

wouldn't be surprised if the Zaftra's military had taken over and continued that research in secret.

Well, I suppose there was a higher chance that I'd be scouted by a special operations unit and commit suicide, rather than have my brain removed and become a super soldier integrated with a Wanzer. Either way, I thought Shinpei would be spared. And in the aftermath of the Sakata Industries incident, the exchange of Wanzer technology and tactics between ZAFTRA and E.C. was cancelled, and I naturally received an order to return to my home country, but... I refused the order."

I gazed upon Latona's stern, firm profile with complete abandon. From a young age, she had lived with the intention of devoting herself to her country and the military, so I wondered what it must have been like for her to decide to leave both behind. Those who were not soldiers would probably be unable to imagine or understand.

And Latona continued speaking calmly.

"My superior officer scolded me to my face, asking if I had gone mad. He also slandered me, saying that I was selling out my country and tarnishing my mother's name as a hero. But my mother had written in her will that her country was not worth returning to. So my resolve did not waver.

Looking back now, I realize that I was being reckless. At the very least, I should have kept my true intentions secret until the last minute, and then suddenly defected.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

I was probably a lot more naive then than I am now. I was eventually taken in by the British military intelligence service where I was deployed, but I was seriously nearly killed at least three times before then.

Well, in the end, I'm still alive, so it's fine. If I had been ordered to be assigned to a special operations unit in Zaftra and openly refused orders, I probably would have lost my life. I now believe that this is exactly what my mother meant when she told me not to return to my homeland and to stay abroad."

Saying that, she sighed deeply.

"It may be a little late now, but it's not that I've come to hate my homeland. It's true that there are many unreasonable aspects to the country of Zaftra, but that's more or less the case in every country around the world.

However, I had an intuition that if I had stayed with the Zaftran army, I would soon die an undesirable death, so I ran away without any reason or fault. In that sense, Durandal is like a refuge for me, although that may be a bad way to put it.」

"Yeah, I get what you mean."

Looking over at Latona, I slowly nodded.

"And so, you were able to use Durandal as a temporary refuge.

Mission 8 Near the Zaftran border

But I understand how much you care about me."

"Thank you. If you can understand that much, then I have nothing more to say», Latona said with a wry smile, but continued speaking.

"I don't know whether I'll continue to stay in the evacuation shelter, or if I'll eventually go somewhere else. I don't have any special skills other than fighting in a Wanzer. But once I'm no longer in danger, I would like to return to my homeland», she said, then suddenly looked at her face.

"Well, this time you've returned to your homeland in a way you never expected. What's more, you've found yourself in the middle of an even more dangerous situation than when you left."«That's right. First of all, we have to get back safely, otherwise there's nothing we can do». It's not really a laughing matter, but I thought the situation was kind of funny, so I agreed». From now on, I'll rely on your information, experience, and skills more than ever. If there's anything I can do for you, I'll do it, so please don't hesitate to let me know."

"Yeah, what may be common sense to the Zaftra people may be pretty harsh to a weakling like you who grew up in E.C. or the USN, so prepare yourself», Latona retorted with a grin. But she quickly regained her seriousness and continued», Actually, I want to make that point more clearly to Hermes than to you. Just

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

That guy, if you give him a little nagging he'll get upset right away."«That's true. But, well, I guess we have no choice but to leave the reins of Hermes to Zead».

I answered in a deliberately light tone.

"In this situation, there's no point in sticking to such pretense, but he is essentially a management member after all. I think he would be psychologically resistant to being told what to do by us."«Ah, now that you mention it, that may be true."

Latona nodded, as if she had finally understood what he meant. Thinking about it, she was an elite who had graduated from the military academy, and was used to being the one giving orders. Even after joining Durandal, they had teamed up to pick up Arrow—

Since the person he was talking to was a civilian named Beck, he was in a higher position than Beck, even though they were both execution personnel. Therefore, even though she was an administrative personnel, it would be difficult for him to truly understand that Hermes, a civilian, was in a position to give him orders.

« Perhaps my senses, being a former NCO and used to being ordered around, are rare or perhaps valuable in Durandal?»

Well, aside from Hermes, Latona, Zead and Bosch are not the type of officers who just give orders and then that's it, they take the initiative and act on their own, so that's fine, but I was dazzled by them, but still, if they were each willing to give orders to each other, then that must mean,

Mission 8 Near the Zaftran border

No matter how you look at it, it's going to be inconvenient. Zead, the undisputed leader, and the easygoing Bosch seem to be able to mediate things well, but the relationship between Latona and Hermes might be something to watch out for. I thought it would be best to talk to Zead about it later when I had the chance.

"We'll soon be approaching the Zaftran border. Everyone, please assemble at the front of the vehicle immediately», Zead's voice said over the loudspeaker inside the vehicle, waking me up from my nap. It wasn't a very long nap after taking over the guard, but thankfully I didn't have a nightmare like the other day and woke up refreshed. I immediately jumped out and headed to the front of the vehicle with Latona.

When they got there, Zead and Bosch had been keeping watch continuously, so it was only natural that they had arrived early, but to their surprise, Hermes, who is often late to these kinds of gatherings, had also arrived early. Zead then immediately began his explanation.

"Currently, this vehicle is traveling at a slight deceleration. The blue dot on the display panel is its actual current location. Meanwhile, we are having Hermes send us dummy data that shows it traveling at top speed. The leading red dot is the location of the dummy data.

If the Zaftra's military is determined to destroy the pipeline, they will likely launch a dummy data attack before it enters the junction. That way, at worst we will avoid a direct hit». «I see.

If we take precautions like this, there is a high risk that the pipeline will be suddenly destroyed.

So it will decrease at least a little."

Latona nodded with an understanding look.

"But there seem to be other yellow and green bright spots too, what are they?"«This is also dummy data. If the pipeline is destroyed, even if we don't get a direct hit, it would be a clear disadvantage if they figure out where the WB is», Hermes replied, busily operating the computer. It seemed he had been called to the front of the vehicle much earlier than the rest of us, and was working on an electronic intelligence operation». When faking information on a computer, it is extremely difficult to completely hide something that actually exists and make it appear as if it doesn't exist, but it's not that difficult to make something that doesn't actually exist appear as if it does.

it's more effective to create a lot of dummy bodies and scatter them around than to scramble around trying to cover your tracks».

"Hmm, is that so?"

Latona brought out an impressive warrior corpse, but suddenly, a different possibility occurred to me». But isn't this a considerable threat from Zafra's point of view?"«What? A threat?"

I quickly explained to Hermes, who looked puzzled.

Mission 8 Near the Zaftran border

"If we look at this data honestly, it shows that a number of vehicles are coming from Wassau in a swarm, right? I don't know if the Zaftra side would consider the possibility that this is dummy data, but if they interpret it as a large army attacking, won't they panic and decide to blow up the pipeline?»

"...I see. I hadn't even considered that possibility."

Hermes groaned, looking like someone who had mistakenly drunk vinegar instead of a soft drink.

"But even so, it's too late to delete the dummy data now , so what should we do?"«Hmm. Well, whatever we do, we'll just have to wait for Zaftra's reaction», Zead replied, also with a complicated expression.

Suddenly, the interior lights switched to a bright red warning light that flashed rapidly, and a loud announcement in what sounded like Zaftran language rang out.

"Wh-what?"

"There's been an accident! We're going to make an emergency stop, so sit in your seat and fasten your safety belt!» I yelled as Latona pushed me into the nearest seat, sat down and fastened the attached safety belt. Then, as soon as I had hastily fastened my belt, the pipeline vehicle made an incredibly loud noise and slammed into an incredibly violent slam. If I hadn't been sitting in my seat and fastened my belt, I would have been blown away and slammed into the wall,

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

It was so violent that it could have resulted in instant death from bruises all over the body.

"So, this is a pipeline explosion..."

"Don't chatter away! I'll bite your tongue!"

I was about to blurt something out unconsciously, but Latona quickly stopped me. The next moment I hurriedly shut my mouth, the sudden braking must have caused some part of the vehicle to shift, as the vehicle suddenly began to shake up and down and side to side with incredible force. We barely managed to avoid flipping upside down, but we were tossed around in every other direction more than we could handle.

"Oh no ."

Unable to do anything, I just stood there in a daze enduring the storm. I quickly got past the stage of feeling dizzy, and just as I was about to lose consciousness, the train finally came to a final, huge thud and slammed to a halt.

"I... I didn't think that an emergency stop for a pipeline vehicle would be this... so outrageous:••:»

Hermes, slumped in the seat, groaned in an inaudible voice. Then, Zead, probably choking out on purpose, spoke in a powerful voice». It's true that this has been a bit tough, but this is not a situation in which we can take it easy and recover. If we don't withdraw immediately, the Zaftran army will be swarming in no time!»

Mission 8 Near the Zaftran border

"Yeah, I know , but it looks like there's no way we can restart the vehicle and reverse the pipeline. We'll have to abandon the vehicle and escape in a Wanzer», Hermes groaned, undoing her safety belt and staggering out of her seat.

"Damn, I thought I was training my body as best I could, but it's still so hard. "«Are you okay? Stay strong!"

I ran over to Hermes and supported her shaky body. To be honest, I was feeling dizzy and unsteady on my feet, so I'd be lying if I said it wasn't hard, but for now, supporting the weak civilians had to take priority.

And then Zead raises his voice and gives them a pep talk.

"Hurry! No matter how hard it is, you have to get in the Wanzer! Otherwise, we won't be able to move forward!"

"I guess it feels like I've somehow managed to escape this far."

I felt a little dizzy as I spewed the hover gear and glided across the marshland, which was neither mud nor a swamp. Immediately after I put on the hover gear, the feeling was a little too different and I had a hard time picking up speed, but I feel like I'm finally getting used to it.

After making an emergency stop and abandoning the stalled pipeline vehicle, we each got into our Wanzers.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

They switched to a, and forced their way out of the maintenance shaft onto the ground. Then, at Latona's suggestion, they quickly attached the hover legs to everyone's Wanzers, as well as the self-propelled containers carrying replacement parts and supplies. They quickly left the maintained roads and headed off down an unpaved road towards the border between Zaftra and Ukraine.

At the time, some people suggested that it might be quicker to use the road with the normal legs on until they came across a checkpoint, but Latona quickly rejected this idea.

"For now, the main forces of the Zaftran army seem to be stationed near the blast site of the pipeline, but we can't be sure of their mobility. They'll probably use aircraft to search from the air, and once they know the target's location, they'll send in a large number of wanzers using high-speed trailers and, in some cases, even airborne transports, to quickly encircle them. Once that happens, there's no way they'll be able to escape, no matter how hard they try. Of course, in that situation, there's no way they'll have the time to switch to hover legs."

"Indeed, the Zaftran army's specialty is quickly deploying large numbers of troops. Sometimes it takes a while for them to decide to deploy to an area, but once they do, they are incredibly efficient. If we want to escape, our only option is to disappear before they are deployed», growled Bosch, who had experience operating alongside the Zaftran army on Huffman Island, while Latona continued in a forceful tone.

Mission 8 Near the Zaftran border

"Exactly. So, if they can predict our destination and narrow the search area, I believe we will have almost no chance of winning. They probably didn't expect us to have a Hoverforce prepared, so the sooner we can get off the road, the greater our chances. Also, considering the risk of them predicting our destination, it would be best to avoid heading west to the border by the shortest route. It would be a longer distance to the border, but heading south would be more likely to surprise them, and there would also be more terrain that would be favorable for evading aerial searches."

"Right. I'll leave it to Latona to decide on an escape route. But before that, let's hurry up and work on replacing the legs."

Zead made the decision, and we all worked together to replace the legs. Normally, this kind of work would have been Hermes's domain, but he still had a lot of damage from the pipeline vehicle's emergency shutdown, and all he could do was work on his own aircraft. Because of this, the final adjustments to the newly installed hover legs had to be left to each pilot, and as for my aircraft, although I managed to get it to function, I couldn't hope for the same sense of stability as when Hermes had made it.

However, according to Latona, the Hover Legs have very little room for fine-tuning because their sole function is to lift the heavy Ventour off the ground and get it moving. Even if Hermes carefully adjusted it, there was still a difference between the adjustments according to the manual and the actual adjustments.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

There isn't much difference, apparently.

"Anyway, it's great if it can move. You'll only get used to using it more than that» he said, in a rather rough, if you like, way, and as if no further questions were needed, Latona fired up the newly installed hovercraft and set off, leading the group. Since we were linked together, there was no way I could be separated from Latona's machine, so I ran in second place desperately. Then, next to Hermes, the self-propelled container, and Zead, Bosch took the rear position. It was almost dawn when we set off like this. It was now almost dusk, but fortunately we hadn't encountered any aircraft or vehicles of the Zaftra's military, or any Wanzers, and in fact, despite driving from morning until night, there wasn't even a trace of a civilian vehicle or house in sight.

"It seems that we managed to avoid the worst-case scenario of our escape route being read and us being surrounded and annihilated».

Latona's voice, half talking to herself, came through the headset». The movements of the Zaftran army are much slower than I expected. Perhaps they took the dummy data at face value, thought a large army was coming down the pipeline, and are on more alert than necessary. If that's the case, it's a blessing for us."«However, the information that we are a small minority came from Blauer Nebel, who we fought at Wassau, and told us about our presence at Zaftra.

Mission 8 Near the Zaftran border

I think it's leaning towards (Futra) Zaftra's side. But even so, would they have such a misunderstanding?"

Latona answered Bosch's question simply.

"Well, I don't know. However, I wonder how seriously the Zaftra side will take the information from Blauer Nebel.

Blauer Nebel collude with the German Chancellor and then end up teaming up with Zaftra by chance? Or did he have a relationship with Zaftra from the beginning? That would make a big difference in the story».

"Yeah. That's certainly true."

Bosch responded in a slightly subdued voice.

"To be honest, I still can't believe it. Both Commander Gleaser and Commander Wagner in Blauer Nebel are German military supremacists. If they staged a coup because they were worried about the future of the country, I wouldn't agree with it, but I could still understand it.

However, even if it was a conspiracy with the Prime Minister, inviting in the Zaftran army to destroy their own country's base is completely incompatible with their ideology. That being said, they are not the type to compromise with reality and abandon their ideology. On the contrary, I think they are the type to try to forcefully change reality to fit their ideology."

"I have no connection with either Wagner or Gleaser, so I can't really say anything about that.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

However, in this case, it seems that Zaftra's German-Polish invasion force is acting with complete confidence that Blauer Nebel will provide them with proper support», Bosch responded suspiciously to Latona's words.

"What does that mean?"

"I know I should say it, but Zaftrans are generally very suspicious of outsiders. They don't really trust people who are on their side solely because of a temporary mutual interest or circumstances», Latona explained in a matter-of-fact tone.

"To avoid being betrayed at any time, important information is not given to such people, and they are never entrusted with jobs that involve life and death. You have conducted joint operations with the Zaftran army before, so I'm sure you have some experience that you can think of».

"Yeah, that's true."

Having said that, Bosch paused for a moment and then growled softly.

"And this time, the Zaftran army did not treat Blauer Nebel as an outsider, but trusted her and entrusted her with their support. In other words, there must be some reason why the Zaftran army considers Blauer Nebel to be family».

"That's right. Frederick Lancaster said that Wagner, Gleaser, and even the German Chancellor might be spies for Zaftra.

Mission 8 Near the Zaftran border

It's entirely possible that Wagner, the field commander, is actually on Zaftra's side."

As Latona spoke, Zead's voice interrupted.

"Indeed, after the attack on Poland, Gleaser was stationed in Berlin, but Wagner came to the old castle base near the scene and closely supported the escape of the assault force. I also think that this is a possible story.

However, if Wagner is a spy for Zaftra, the information he sends from Wassau should be trusted by the Zaftra side, so the scale of our forces will be accurately known."«Eventually, they will know.

"But the information sent by a spy doesn't reach the troops in the field directly. The more important the spy is, the more it has to go through the leadership before it can reach the ground. The routes the information is sent through often take time and effort to maintain secrecy, so it probably won't be in time», Latona stated in a clear tone. But who was it that said he had no special skills other than fighting in a Wanzer, I wondered in my mind, astonished. If that was the case, surely he could be a intelligence analysis officer or a senior staff officer right away.

"This is what an unaware elite is like ."

Well, if fighting was the only skill I had, there's no way I could graduate from the military academy, I thought.

He sighed slightly.

And whether she knew that people had such impressions or not - or rather, there was no way she could know - Latona continued speaking clearly.

"That's why, although I won't say that there's absolutely no possibility that the main Zaftra forces, having received contact from Wassau, will suddenly become active behind our backs, it's not that likely. Rather, the problem is with the border patrols that are on regular patrols."

"That's the department you were previously assigned to."

Zead responded in a rather serious tone.

"That alone gives the impression that they are a formidable opponent. Is it possible that one of your former colleagues or subordinates is stationed in this area?"

"No, the border patrol frequently changes personnel to prevent collusion with smugglers. All of the people who were there when I was assigned there should have been transferred long ago. Although the person in charge has changed, the content of their work probably won't change much. Small units equipped with Hoverlets patrol the border area, cracking down on smugglers and people entering and leaving the country illegally, but in reality it's not much different from anti-guerrilla warfare using Wanzers. Anyone who would dare to cross the Zaftran border using illegal means would surely have one or two armed Wanzers."

Mission 8 Near the Zaftran border

"So, the Zaftran border Guard are professionals at hunting guerrillas? Perhaps some of the damage they've suffered since being aboard the Day Wanzers has healed, as Hermes joins the conversation.

And Latona answered simply.

"That's right. They don't possess particularly powerful weapons, but in a melee between a small number of Wanzers equipped with Hoverlets, they're probably more formidable than Blauer Nebel. They're also equipped with high-performance sensors, making them strong in disruptive and pursuit battles.

And because their patrol times and areas change almost daily, it's impossible to avoid them unless you're an insider. Of course, they patrol a fairly wide area, so if you're lucky you can avoid encountering them, but it's really all down to luck. By the way, when I was in office, if you tried to cross the border straight at the hoverleg's normal cruising speed, the patrol route was calculated so that no matter how you entered or from where, you would always be caught in the detection range of a patrol at least once. This was my original idea, so I don't know if they still do it the same way, but it's possible that it's been passed down."

"...You're not just a pilot, but also a commander. You're someone I definitely don't want to make into my enemy».

Bosch groaned with emotion, but before Latona could respond, Zead spoke up.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

"In the end, it's best to prepare yourself for an encounter with the border patrol and a fight. In any case, information about our intrusion has likely reached the border patrol, so it's highly likely that the border area will be on even stricter alert than normal patrols." «That's true. If they mobilize all the troops that are usually on standby to be on alert, then we won't be able to break through the border unless we engage in at least one battle».

Saying that, Latona continued in a practical tone.

"The thing you need to be most careful of when fighting with hoverlegs is that it's nearly impossible to dodge just before the enemy fires. Due to the structure of the hoverlegs, you can't expect such quick reactions, but the more skilled the pilots are at evasive maneuvers with normal Wanzers, the more likely they are to fall into this trap. To be honest, I fell for it at first, too. Bosch and Elsa, please be especially careful."

"Okay, I'll be careful."

Bosch responded in a calm tone and mentioned something that had been bothering me too.

"But if you can't dodge in an instant, does that mean you have to dodge enemy attacks by using speed?" «That's right. Rather than dodging, you'll have to hope that the enemy misses their shot, but the key is to keep moving around and make it difficult for them to aim."

When Latona responded, Hermes suddenly groaned in a grumbling tone.

Mission 8 Near the Zaftran border

"Oh, I see. If the Hoverwhelm is equipped and it can no longer evade attacks, the Tatoon will simply become a Wanzer with thin armor.

Instead of just replacing the legs, I should have made the Ventours with thicker armor around the Cicada mouth into hover-leg versions for everyone. It's completely too late now, though."«Yeah. I completely agree that it's too late», Latona said rather harshly, and for a moment I felt cold, but then Zead interrupted in a stern tone.

"In any case, this is enemy territory. If combat were to break out, even if we managed to defeat the immediate enemy, if reinforcements arrive while we are struggling, we would have no chance of winning. Rather than defeating the enemy, our absolute priority is to cross the border quickly and with as little damage as possible."«Crossing the border quickly and with as little damage as possible, huh? That's difficult, but we have no choice but to do it», Latona replied firmly.

people would think I had come back to my homeland to risk my life. I absolutely do not want that to happen».

"...I understand how you feel."

Without saying a word, I was dazzled.

And the day after that conversation, we finally arrived at the border of the Zaftran army.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

I encountered the security guards.

"The sensor is responding! There's a Zafran army Wanzer ahead to the right! It's heading straight towards us ! Six units confirmed!»

Hermes, who was equipped with a high-performance sensory backpack on his Wanzer, shouted, and Latona immediately responded.

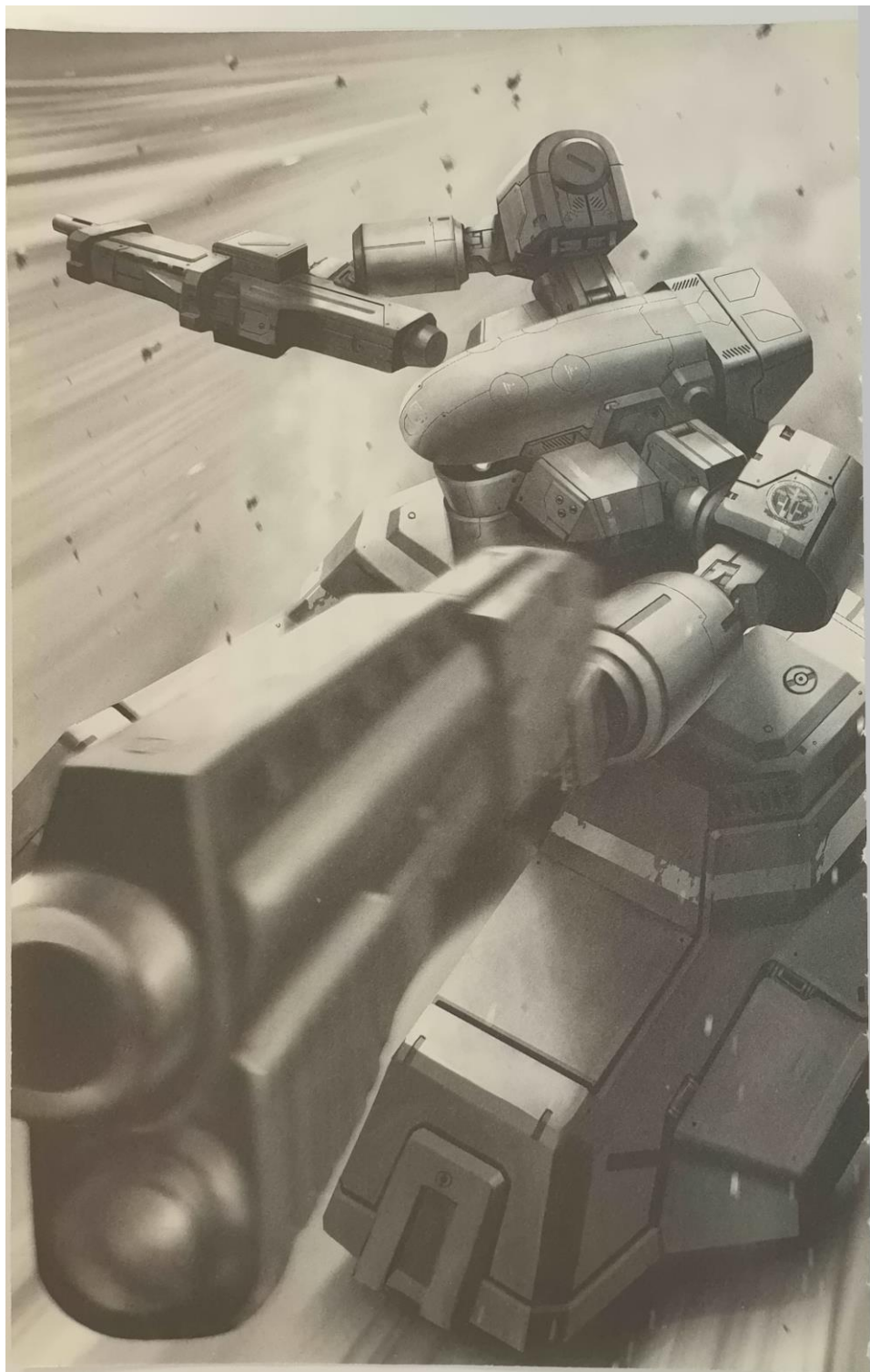
"If we run away, they'll track us down and call for reinforcements. It's best to engage them and strike them down. Elsa, let's go !"

"Y/n!"

I tried my best to follow the Latona unit as it charged ahead, hovering. Zead's unit seemed to have fired a missile from behind, but I didn't have the time to pay attention to it.

The Zafran Wanzers were naturally equipped with hover weapons, and closed the distance in a straight line without hesitation. At the front were three units equipped with melee weapons and shields. Behind them were two equipped with machine guns and shields. There seemed to be two more units further back, but they were probably equipped with long-range weapons such as armor-piercing cannons and explosive cannons. For the time being, they didn't seem to be firing. At that moment, a grenade exploded in the sky, and a fierce rain of flames came down. To make matters worse, at least one of the ー•ー units at the very back seemed to be equipped with a grenade.

"I'll crush you from behind!"



GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4 R

Declaring this in a roaring voice, Latona made a sharp turn to dodge the melee weapon-equipped machine that was approaching in front of her, and tried to go around to the rear of the enemy line. The machine equipped with a machine gun started firing furiously at her, but since they were both moving at high speed, the accuracy wasn't very good. Latona's machine continued charging forward, using its shield to defend itself. It was all I could do just to keep up.

Then, the two last planes that had been running in a line with the other planes suddenly changed direction and made what at first glance seemed to be a flight. I hesitated for a moment whether to pursue them further, but Latona didn't hesitate at all and furiously pursued the fleeing plane. At that moment, a grenade was fired, probably aimed at our plane, and a hornless raging fire rained down on us, telling us to dodge.

"Dammit!"

Spitting out a snarl in anger, Latona continued charging forward. The grenade-equipped unit tried to back away and put some distance between them, but Latona's unit was faster in approach. Normally, there shouldn't be much difference in running speed between hover legs, so this was probably down to a difference in skill. And after what seemed more like a car chase than a Wanzer battle, Latona cornered the grenade - equipped unit. No longer close enough to fire a grenade, the enemy unit swung around its melee weapon, but against Latona, this was futile resistance. At the same time as the pile bunker hit, my unit, which had somehow managed to keep up, fired a shotgun in a linked attack, silencing the grenade-equipped unit with a single hit and ejecting the pilot.

Mission 8 Near the Zaftran border

"Hooray:~:"

I breathed a sigh of relief, but Latona immediately attacked the aircraft accompanying the grenade-equipped aircraft. It seemed to be escorting the grenade-equipped aircraft, and was equipped with a machine gun and a shield, but it was strangely slow-moving and fired in the wrong direction. I had heard that the border patrol was made up of elite personnel, but I thought that some of them might have just been recruits. However, Latona attacked without mercy, and although I was a little confused, since we were linked, I automatically supported it with a shotgun. The enemy aircraft was instantly disabled and the pilot was ejected along with the cockpit, but Latona pointed a pile bunker at the ejected cockpit and used an external loudspeaker to make a fierce threat in Zaftran language.

".....Wh-what is this?"

While I was confused, the pilot hastily escaped from the cockpit, and in the next moment, the pile bunkers of the Latona's plane literally crushed the vacant cockpit. Then the Latona immediately turned the plane around and took off.

I hesitated for a moment, then ran after the Latona plane and asked.

"Did something happen in the cockpit of that plane just now?"

"Didn't you notice? That thing is equipped with advanced sensors. Even just the ejected cockpit can activate its sensors over a considerable distance. It's a troublesome opponent.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

When Latona explained it to me, I felt a chill down my spine. She had been trying to destroy the plane equipped with the advanced detector as quickly as possible, rather than the one equipped with the grenade.

Moreover, while we were attacking the enemy's rear, a terrible situation was also occurring at our rear. Just when we thought we were out of the way, the enemy's four units, one equipped with melee weapons and one equipped with machine guns, put all their strength into destroying our unit equipped with advanced sensor devices and our long-range attack unit. Even though we had destroyed the unit equipped with grenades, it was no time to take a sigh of relief. When we rushed back, the situation was exactly the reverse of what it had been a moment ago. The Zead unit, which had been pushed so far that it could no longer use its missiles, fought back with melee weapons for striking, and the Hermes unit was also firing with all its might, but it was not even close to hitting the enemy unit, which was moving at high speed. As for the Bosch unit, both of its arms had been destroyed by pile bunkers and it was already unable to fight.

Pile bunker machine gun. The enemy was probably hit by a missile. One melee weapon equipped machine and one machine equipped with a machine gun had been destroyed, reducing their fighting power by half, but even so, the situation was still dangerous.

"I won't let you do it!" **Pile Bunker** Latona's unit ferociously attacked the melee weapon-equipped unit that was engaged with Zead's unit. The enemy's skills seemed to be quite high, as the pile bunker it slammed into the enemy was deflected by its shield, but at the same time, my unit fired a shotgun in a linked attack. Seizing this opportunity, Zead's unit quickly retreated and fired a missile at the machine gun-equipped unit. It seemed that the machine gun-equipped unit had already sustained considerable damage.

Mission 8 Near the border with JFtra

However, it is hit directly by a missile, causing it to halt and the pilot is ejected.

When it gets to this point, no matter how skilled the Border Patrol's melee weapon-equipped machines are, they are already outnumbered. Moreover, since we have no reinforcements coming and we have to flee, there is no room for restraint or greetings. As they are defending against the pile bunker attack of Latona's machine, I simultaneously fire my shotgun and machine gun at them, and to finish them off, Zead's machine fires a missile.

"Let's get going! Is there anyone who is having trouble moving?»
Latona called out, not even looking at the cockpit that had been ejected. Then Hermes answered, panting heavily.

"The Wanzers can somehow move, but the self-propelled containers have been destroyed. The hoverlegs won't function."

"I guess I'll just have to throw it away."

Latona stated it very matter-of-factly.

"I'm just glad I didn't have to throw away my Wanzer. Let's go!"

"Okay, hurry up!"

Zead responded, and we left the self-propelled container behind and began to make a full escape.

MISSION 9

Nikolaev' s Port

"Uuuuuuh

"Even if we don't have to fight, there's no guarantee that we'll be able to cross Ukraine without being thwarted in this condition», Hermes groaned, looking troubled as he inspected the damage to the Wanzer. We were lucky to only engage and destroy six Border Patrol Wanzers once, and were able to cross the Zaftran border and enter the Ukrainian side without encountering any more enemies. Latona's judgment was that the other units received a distress signal from the destroyed patrol and tried to rush to their aid, causing them to disorganize their formation, which ultimately led to an unpredictable situation. However, just because we've entered Ukraine doesn't mean we're safe. Compared to Zaftra itself, the search and pursuit may be a little less rigorous, but if someone discovers us, we'll be reported as a suspicious armed Wanzer, and if we encounter Ukrainian troops, they may ask us to surrender first, but if we don't surrender, we'll definitely be in a fight.

Moreover, our Wanzers have sustained considerable damage in the battle with the Zaftran border Guard. The most serious damage was sustained by Bosch's machine, with both arms destroyed, but Zead Ren and Hermes' machines were also in disarray.

Mission 9 Nikolaev's Port

Although it wasn't completely immobilized, it had sustained deep damage in various parts, and while mine and Latona's machines were relatively lightly injured, the flames from the grenade had caused significant damage to the sensors in their heads and shoulder joints. And, most seriously, because we had abandoned the self-propelled container, we couldn't replace the broken parts, and it was impossible to repair it beyond a temporary fix.

"Even if it was in perfect condition, traveling long distances without spare parts means you never know what kind of accidents might happen. After all the damage it's suffered in battle, there's no way to even repair it properly, so it's not surprising it would break down the moment you try to move it."

"I already know that much without you having to tell me."

Hermes shrugged and shook her head rather exaggeratedly, while Latona responded in a clearly displeased tone.

"The question is, what should we do about the current situation? If we really need the parts, we have no choice but to find a way to get them."

Latona said abruptly, glaring at Hermes.

we could even attack the Ukrainian military base where the Wanzers are stationed and take it over. What I want to ask you is whether it's really worth taking that much risk to get repair parts. What do you think?»

"Even if you ask me what's going on, I can't make such a sudden decision without any documents or anything."

Right?"

Hermes muttered back, and Latona snorted», If you can't make a judgement then just keep quiet. We're not in a position to listen to endless petty complaints from someone who can't offer any well-reasoned, constructive opinions."

"Well then, Latona. Do you have a well-thought-out, constructive solution?» Bosch asked in a nonchalant tone, a question that could be quite harsh depending on how you asked it». Even though you came from Zafra, you're the one who knows the land around here better than anyone. First, can you please tell us your solution?"

"Understood.

To be frank, I see no realistic solution at this point other than relying on illegal Ukrainian organizations».

When Latona spoke, Zead raised his eyebrows and asked.

"An illegal organization? Anti-government guerrillas or something?"

"No, they're not. They're armed smugglers, self-styled vigilantes who are practically bandits, gangsters who call themselves city bosses, that sort of thing. They're not anti-government, but rather a criminal organization that's in collusion with the Ukrainian government."

Mission 9 Nikolaev's Port

Latona explained in a matter-of-fact tone.

"During my time working for the border guards, I dealt with these guys, and they have the power to surpass the Ukrainian government. In fact, some of them will honestly claim that it is their hidden earnings that are keeping the Ukrainian economy afloat, when according to official figures it should have collapsed a long time ago.

And they will take on any job, as long as they are paid enough. Of course, high-risk jobs demand high rewards, but once a contract is made, they rarely betray. They have no qualms about ignoring laws arbitrarily made by the state, but they also have their own rules that they must not break, and they maintain their own sense of integrity."

"But in most cases, members of illegal organizations are very suspicious. They may be faithful once a contract is made, but if they don't have a trusted introducer, they probably won't even make contact, let alone a contract».

Perhaps he had come into contact with some illegal organization during his time in the special forces. Zead asked Latona in a tone filled with reality.

"Latona, do you have any specific means of contacting illegal organizations in Ukraine?"«I don't know if they're still effective, but I do have some means. However, I didn't create them myself."

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

Saying that, Latona gave a small, bitter smile.

"Although there are no records of it anywhere, my father had ties to illegal organisations in Ukraine. Specifically, he was a contact for smugglers in Zafra."

"Eh?"

I couldn't help but look at Latona, my eyes widening. I'd heard that her mother was a hero in the Zaftran army, a local notable with the rank of honorary colonel, and well-connected with the upper echelons of the military...». But... did your mother know about that?"

"My mother knew all about it."

Latona answered very matter-of-factly.

"I don't know the details of how my father and mother met, or how they ended up getting married. However, it seems that when they met, my father was already a member of a smugglers' organization, and my mother was a soldier recognized for her achievements in the Zafra's military. Normally, even if romantic feelings blossomed between them, I don't think that relationship would bear fruit, but the two of them got married and stayed together until my father passed away, and they didn't fall apart socially. Looking back on it now, I think that my mother probably took the initiative and did a pretty cunning job of covering up the affair».

"Yes ."

I was half-astonished to see that her mother, who was such a great person, was even more so.

Mission 9 Nikolaev's Port

I was stunned and dazzled.

And Latona continues speaking in the same vein.

I remember that when my father was alive, Uncle Sergei from Nikolayev would visit us from time to time. I was young at the time, so I have the image of him as a very grown-up man, but I think he was probably in his thirties at most. This man was my father's business associate, or rather, his partner."

"So you're an illegal smuggler?"

Hermes asked in a tone that sounded a little harsh, but Latona nodded with complete calm.

"That's true. However, members of illegal organizations usually have a public face. Uncle Sergei was a legitimate trader on the surface, and he must have been conducting legitimate business. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been able to enter Zafra so openly."

"Well, that's certainly true."

Hermes groaned, and now it was Zead who asked.

"So, how long and to what extent did your contact with this person continue?" «My contact with Uncle Sergei completely ended when my father died. At least, I have no recollection of ever seeing him after that.

Now that I think about it, Uncle Sergei didn't attend my father's funeral either. Maybe my mother refused."

Latona said, shrugging her shoulders.

I don't know if Uncle Sergei is currently in Nikolaev, if he is still working as a smuggler, or even if he is still alive. To be honest, I'm not too sure if I can call this a means, but illegal organizations, for better or worse, place great importance on blood ties. If I went to Nikolaev and said I was Vasilev's daughter, I might be able to be more receptive than if I hadn't».

"Still, it's better than nothing."

Zead stated decisively, as if the decision had already been made.

"Besides, if there was a close relationship until recently, there is a high risk that the Zaftra authorities will be aware of it. A relationship that was severed more than ten years ago without any grudge is ideal in some sense."

"Well, I don't know if there was any resentment between my mother and Uncle Sergei», Latona replied with a wry smile, as if she had just remembered something.

"However, I think it's safe to say that the Zaftra's military is probably unaware of the work my father and Uncle Sergei were doing. If they are aware of it but are refusing to make it public,

Mission 9 Nikolaev's Port

So there was no way that I, who had volunteered to join the border guards, would be assigned to the border with Ukraine, of all places.

In fact, I never had any contact with illegal organizations while I was with the Border Patrol. My background may have been reexamined after I defected to E.C., but I don't think I was ever questioned again about my involvement in Ukraine».

"Okay then, let's head to Nikolaev."

Declaring this once more, Zead looked around at everyone.

"Does anyone have any objections?"

"Well, I didn't object. I had no alternative, and in fact, rationally I knew that this was the course most likely to succeed».

Hermes grumbled in a tone that sounded a mixture of irritation and pathetic», But I still don't feel comfortable relying on a criminal organization. I don't mean to say it's moral, but I feel like there's no telling when we might betray each other, and it makes me uneasy."«Well, actually, even before you think about being betrayed, the biggest issue is whether we can rely on a criminal organization in the first place».

Bosch responded nonchalantly as ever.

"Well, there's nothing we can do about it. We'll just have to pin our hopes on Latona's negotiating skills».

"Latona's negotiating skills. She has daily disputes with the people in charge of the weapons company, but I wonder if she'd be able to negotiate with a criminal organization».

"Fuu», Hermes sighed». I don't think there's any point in worrying about that», I replied silently.

About three days after crossing the Zaftran border, we managed to safely travel to our destination, the outskirts of Nikolaev. I don't know if anyone saw us, but at least we weren't chased by the Ukrainian military or police, and the wanzer didn't have a fatal breakdown and stop us. I think we were really lucky. However, there was no way we could enter the city while in an armed wanzer. So, Latona got off the wanzer and infiltrated the city alone, and we decided to wait hidden in the nearby forest. Even for Latona, acting alone in this situation was quite dangerous, but if we, who are obviously foreigners, accompanied her, it would be a disadvantage to stand out. According to Latona's explanation, Nikolaev is a trading port, but it is far from being an international city, and it feels more like a small rural town where most of the residents know each other. Of course, Latona, who is a Zaftra native, is also an outsider, but she was a Ukrainian.

Mission 9 Nikolaev's Port

They can speak Na, and compared to us, they feel much more at ease.

So Latona went off on her own, and we patiently waited to hear from her, until Hermes, impatient and unable to wait, began to complain, as might be expected.

To be honest, I thought that complaining wouldn't accomplish anything so she should just shut up and rest. But from Hermes' point of view, keeping quiet would only increase her anxiety and tension, and she probably wouldn't have time to rest. Zead didn't particularly blame her, and Bosch seemed to be going along with it dutifully, so I didn't say anything too nagging, and instead focused on conserving as much of my strength as possible, if not recovering it. In reality, there was no telling when an emergency call would come from Latona and we would have to rush into Nikolaev city in a Wanzer to support or rescue her, so as a Wanzer pilot, it was right to rest while I could.

Then, about half a day later, when Hermes had finally quieted down, as if she had run out of things to complain about, Latona contacted her.

"I've come to an agreement with Uncle Sergei. I've agreed that I will pay him the appropriate money and he will arrange for us to escape to E.C. Sector. First, we will turn the trailer around and store our Wanzers in a warehouse within the city, so I will accompany him to the hideout location. I will contact you again when we get close.

So, is there any problem with that?"

Talent—Va

"There are no particular problems. I will wait for further communication. That's all."

When Zead responded immediately, Latona sounded a little relieved, though it might just be my imagination.

"Understood. I will contact you again later. That's all», Latona said as she hung up the phone, and Hermes spoke in a rather dejected voice». The negotiations went well. Really?"«We still can't let our guard down, but for now, this is a big step forward», Zead said, letting out a deep sigh.

"Having Latona there really helped me out."

"I'm just a merchant. I don't aim to deceive people or take from them by force, and I certainly don't aim to break the law. However, I'm different from what you might call a legitimate merchant in that I will do anything to make a profit», Sergei Yosevlev Arsenov, a smuggler from Nikolaev named» Uncle Sergei», told Zid in surprisingly fluent English.

"Unfortunately, in our country, Ukraine, we are vulnerable to attacks by the unwary, the defenseless and the hostile.

Mission 9 Nikolaev's Port

a merchant who does not plunder even when there is an opportunity, and who is content to simply abide by the laws of the country, can survive. In that sense, Ukraine may be considered a lawless country in the eyes of a large country with an established state and rule of law. However, we still have to live in this country in our own way. If you make a contract with us and ask for our help in return, we will ask you to follow our way». «I understand. This is your land, and we are just people passing through. If you can guarantee a safe escape to the E.C. territory, I will follow your instructions», Zid responded in a polite tone. Sergei then nodded with a serious expression.

"no thanks.

So, until the arrangements for your evacuation are made, please try not to go out in public as much as possible. Foreigners stand out in Nikolaev, and there is no telling where some unexpected incident might occur. It is best to stay hidden and not be noticed."

Sergei paused for a moment, looking thoughtful.

"Your Wanzers will be stored in the warehouse attached to the repair factory near the pier. The floors above have been turned into an office and living space, so feel free to stay there if you like. It won't be as comfortable as a hotel, but I've heard that Wanzer pilots feel uneasy if they can't keep their beloved machines close by."

"Yes, that's right. Thank you for your consideration."

After Jid responded, Sergei looked at me and added somewhat hesitantly.

"However, sleeping on the upper floors of a warehouse might be a bit difficult for a young woman, although it may be fine for the men. If you would like, we could arrange a separate hotel room for you?" «Thank you for your concern, but there's no need for that. I'm a Wanzer pilot myself, so I don't feel at ease unless I'm close to my craft», I said, smiling. I don't think Sergei meant it badly, but it would be troublesome if we were to be separated from the other members.

Then Latona added with a wry smile.

"Uncle, Elsa is a die-hard soldier, just like me. If you're worried about her, you should be worried about me too."

"Well, it's not that I don't care about you. If you want, I can get you a hotel room».

Sergei said, shaking his head a little exaggeratedly.

"But you probably think it's better to be with Ventour anyway, don't you?"

"Yes, that's right, uncle."

Latona replied with a light laugh, and then Zead asked Sergei in a serious tone.

Mission 9 Nikolaev's Port

"By the way, as you can see, our Wanzers has sustained considerable damage and needs to be repaired immediately. We will of course pay for it, but could you please arrange for replacement parts?»

"That's right. If the part is in stock at the factory, we will sell it to you at cost, so you can use it for the repair. However, if we need to order a part that we don't have on hand, we'll need to estimate how much it will cost and how much time it will take», Sergei added, looking a little wary.

"To be honest, the Wanzers you are using are a type never seen before in Ukraine, so it may be difficult to find perfectly compatible parts». - Yes, I understand that. In this situation, we have no reason to ask for things we don't have. We will do our best to adjust them with the parts we can get our hands on». Zead responded calmly, and then looked at Hermes.

"And so, this is where you'll be able to put your adjustment skills to the test. I look forward to working with you."«Um, well, first let's check which parts can actually be used, and then we'll see», Hermes replied, a little taken aback by the sudden request. Then Zead turned to Sergei and said,

"Well, I'd like to move to the warehouse. I'm sorry for the inconvenience, but please come.

"

"I'm surprised. There's a mountain of usable parts."

As soon as they headed to the warehouse, Hermes immediately began checking the stock parts and groaned in genuine surprise.

"Because of the location, I was prepared to have to spend a lot of time installing the ZAFTRA parts, which are difficult to adjust. But it seems that Iguchi's parts are well stocked, even the most high-performance types. There is also a decent amount of repair equipment, so it's not much different from working at Durandal HQ."

Oceana

"Iguchi Corporation is the O.C.U. company that makes Quint, right?» I asked, and Hermes nodded slightly.

"That's right. Although we are sometimes called mediocre, we mainly manufacture wanzers that are well designed and easy to operate even for beginners. The parts don't have many quirks, so they are ideal for temporary replacement and repair."

Oceana Parts Koko» But how can parts for Wanzers made by the company O.C.U. be so readily available in Nikolaev?

Latona tilted her head and glared at her, and Hermes shrugged somewhat exaggeratedly.

Mission 9 Nikolaev's Port

"You should ask Sergei directly about that. Maybe they have some special procurement route. Well, Iguchi seems to have inherited a large part of the sales network of the bankrupt Sakata Industries, so it might be related to that."

"HM"

Latona frowned slightly, but said nothing more. Then Zead spoke to the group.

"For now, I'll leave the repairs and adjustments to Hermes, and everyone else should take a rest. Hermes, don't push yourself too hard. If you need any help, please let me know right away." «Yeah, I know. I don't think the work will be as difficult as we thought, and once I have a good idea of what the work will be like, I'll take a rest as well."

Leaving Hermes behind, we went up to the upper floor of the warehouse.

On the upper floor there was a room with a desk, a large dining kitchen, a toilet and shower room, and three small rooms with two bunks and lockers each. It was quite bleak, but clean, and the atmosphere vaguely reminiscent of a barracks was rather familiar to us». To be honest, I didn't expect to be treated so kindly», I told Latona, who was naturally sharing my room, as I sat on the bunk». Even if they can eventually arrange for us to escape, we will have to be disarmed until the negotiations are concluded.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

I was prepared for some kind of treatment like house arrest. But now they're even letting me repair the Wanzer? I'm wondering if that's really okay."

"Actually, that's not all."

Latona shrugged with a wry smile.

"Normally, in a deal like this, negotiations don't even begin unless at least half the amount is paid on the spot in cash or precious metal. But of course, we didn't have that kind of money. So I was prepared to transfer two or three of the Wanzers that were the only ones we owned that seemed valuable, if not all five.

But Uncle Sergei said that the payment could be transferred from England. Apparently he has an account in Switzerland or somewhere, but in any case, this is exceptionally generous treatment."«Is that because your father and Sergei were friends?» I asked, and Latona replied with a faraway look in her eyes.

"That may be true, but it seems that Uncle Sergei really admired my mother. As soon as he saw me he said that I looked just like her when she was young, and he even secretly attended my mother's funeral, which I was unable to attend, and he told me stories about it. Perhaps they had some kind of relationship that I don't know about, or maybe something happened in the past and he has always had special feelings for her."

Mission 9 Nikolaev's Port

".....I see"

I nodded, thinking, Sergei does seem to have quite a romantic side to him.

Latona then gave a wry smile again and continued.

"However, that doesn't mean we should underestimate Uncle Sergei. I didn't appreciate it back then, but now I can clearly see how amazing he is as the leader of an organization. I made it clear to Zead that he shouldn't even make the mistake of trying to outwit him." «That's true. For the time being, we have no intention other than to safely escape to E.C. territory. There's no point in making a fuss», I replied, and Latona suddenly sighed softly.

"Really, there was no need to warn Elsa about this. I think the person who needs to be warned the most is Hermes, but I have a feeling that she might be repelled, so I guess I'll just have to leave it to Zead."

I don't think he'll complain so much if we can keep the Wanzer repairs and adjustments going».

I said, intentionally speaking in a light-hearted tone. Latona frowned and nodded.

"Ah, Hermes would not be so rash as long as there was work to be done.

I think. If there's going to be any problems, it'll be after that."

"And then, you see."

Ideally, I'd like to be able to leave the country by the time the Wanzer repairs and adjustments are finished, I thought silently.

"It looks like the U.S.N. is seriously planning to go to war with the E.C». Zead frowned and groaned as he glanced at the front page of the newspaper reporting that the USN Atlantic Fleet had departed from a naval base in Florida, loaded with Wanzerrs for amphibious assaults. Five days had already passed since we had entered Nikolayev, and the repairs and adjustments to the Wanzerrs had long since been completed. Sergei seemed to be carefully searching for a way to get us out of the country, but there was still no concrete prospect of doing so.

According to the English-language newspapers delivered to our hideout above the warehouse every morning, tensions between the USN and E.C. were rising day by day while we were wandering from Zaftra to Ukraine. It seems that a press blackout had been imposed regarding the pipeline explosion, and the only article published was that the Zaftra authorities were investigating both the accident and terrorist threats. However, when it came to conflicts between other countries that were not directly related to the country, reports seemed to come from USN or E.C. news agencies, and the coverage was surprisingly detailed. Incidentally, there was a television in the hideout, but of course the sound and picture quality of the news programs was poor.

Mission 9 Nikolaev's Port

The writing on the screen was in Ukrainian, so we mostly got information from English newspapers». I thought it was pretty dangerous when the statements of a dubious group like the Madeira Free Independence Congress were published openly in Ukrainian newspapers. The fleet has already started moving», said Zead, who suddenly put the newspaper he had picked up on the table and glared at him with a worried look on his face. By the way, the Madeira Free Independence Congress is an organization that was formed when some of the people who had tried to make Madeira independent from Portugal in the past and failed, defected to the USN, and despite changes in leadership, it is still actively campaigning for Madeira independence. I think that such a movement is a matter of individual freedom, but for some reason this organization has abundant funds of unclear origin and is actively conducting an anti-E.C. campaign to incite Madeira independence through the USN media. From the E.C. point of view, they are a very shady organization, but in the U.S.N., they are recognized as a fairly influential political organization. And according to information from Frederick Lancaster, almost all of the organization's executives are Zafra's minions.

"The one who's been appointed fleet commander is Vice Admiral Maddox, Secretary of the Navy. If he wanted to, he could even govern the occupied territories.

So the aim is to occupy Madeira after all."

When Bosch responded, Hermes spat out with a bitter look on his face». Sheldon Lee Maddox is not a staunch supporter of war, but he is a USN Navy Admiral.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

Among them, he is said to be the most skilled at political maneuvering. In other words, he is an unconventional and cunning strategist who is always trying to read the winds and take an advantageous position.

I dislike these guys even more, who I can't tell if they're soldiers or bureaucrats».

"But it says that the Atlantic Fleet's departure may also be for relief in Venezuela, where the independence struggle is dragging on longer than expected.

But it doesn't seem 100% certain they're coming to occupy Madeira», I pointed out after skimming the article. Latona shook her head, a complicated look on her face». No, here's an article saying that the Madeira Free and Independence Council has independently armed ships and set sail from New York. This is almost certainly linked to the movements of the Atlantic Fleet. Besides, a Venezuela relief fleet doesn't need to be commanded by the Secretary of the Navy, and there's no need to mobilize the entire Atlantic Fleet in the first place. This shows that they're planning to occupy and take control of Madeira, even if it means fighting a battle with the E.C. combined fleet."

"The EC's response seems to be slow. Well, since we still don't know where the troops that attacked the German military base and the new resource areas in Poland are hiding, it's not hard to understand why they can't mobilize all their forces to defend Madeira.

Mission 9 Nikolaev's Port

With each passing moment, it seems that the situation is moving in the direction we wanted to avoid». Zead groaned with a somber expression, and Hermes asked impatiently». And yet we're stuck in Nikolaev. I wonder what we could do even if we were in England. But we certainly can't do anything in Nikolaev. So, haven't the arrangements for leaving the country been made yet?"

"The biggest problem is not how to get out of Ukraine without being reprimanded, but how to get into E.C. without being reprimanded. Sergei is trying out various options, but it doesn't seem like it's going to be that easy», Zid explained in a tone that sounded almost patient, explaining the same thing he'd been repeating for the past few days.

In fact, if we had tried to enter E.C. territory from Ukraine without any pretenses, we would have been immediately arrested by the authorities at the place of entry. It would have been even more complicated if we had been in an armed van.

So, like when we entered Ukraine from Zaftra, we were thinking of illegally crossing the border into E.C. territory at a suitable place, having a Durandal transport plane arrive there and then escaping by air, but in that case, there is a possibility of a battle breaking out unless we can reach an agreement with the border guards and air forces of both Ukraine and the country in E.C. territory. And Sergei's organization can get the guards at the Ukrainian customs and the permanent border checkpoints to turn a blind eye to a certain extent.

However, they have little influence over the border guards and air force, especially the EC's regular military forces.

And Zead continued speaking calmly.

"When I spoke with Sergei last night, he suggested that it might be easier to escape by sea. If we were to load five Wanzers onto a large trailer and try to enter E-C- territory by land, it would inevitably stand out near the border, but if we load them onto a ship, there won't be a problem. Once we're out in international waters, we could land the Wanzers on an uninhabited small island or something and have a transport plane come over, and there wouldn't be any need to worry about being intercepted. If we're on a large ship, we could just land the transport plane on the deck, which would be even easier».

"Yes, I think the idea of going by sea has been floated for a while. But I remember that they said they couldn't arrange for a suitable ship, right?"

When Hermes asked, Zead nodded with a slightly complicated look on his face.

"Yes, that's right. Sergei's organization does not own a ship, and of the business partners who do have ships, there are currently no ones who are trustworthy and capable enough to entrust us with. However, yesterday Sergei received word that a business partner's ship, which was not scheduled to arrive at this time, had suddenly decided to dock at Nikolaev's Port. What's more, they have requested to do business immediately. The ship is a large armed cargo ship, equipped with a hangar for Wanzers, so there is no problem with its capabilities, but the only thing Sergei is concerned about right now is whether or not it can be trusted.

Mission 9 Nikolaev's Port

He just doesn't seem to have much confidence."

"Don't you think that an opponent who is capable but cannot be trusted is, how should I put it, extremely dangerous?»

Bosch interjected in a very serious tone. Zead nodded again». Yes, I thought the same thing. So last night, I told Sergei that I would be troubled if he introduced someone I couldn't trust.

However, with relations with E.C. deteriorating so rapidly, I feel that it might be best to hurry back home, even if it means accepting some of the risks."«That's a decision that the leader has to make. We won't know if it will come out in the open or backfire until we try», Latona said, a difficult look on her face.

"If Uncle Sergei had thought that the shipowner was completely unreliable, he wouldn't have come to us in the first place. He must have come to ask for advice because he wasn't sure whether he could be trusted."«But once we're on board, our fate is practically in the hands of the shipowner. No matter how urgent the situation is, if you ask a shady party for help, at worst, you'll end up in a complete mess."

Bosch spoke cautiously, and for some reason Hermes asked me why.

"What do you think, Elsa?"

"That's true. Putting aside the question of whether or not we will make a deal, why don't we meet the shipowner in person? I don't think there's much point in deciding whether or not we can trust someone we've never met."

When I said that, Zead nodded before Hermes asked», That's true. I'll ask Sergei if he can let me meet the shipowner».

With that, Zead went into the office next door. There was a phone on the desk in this room, which connected directly to Sergei's office, and it was set to 1. It had been secured against wiretapping, so he was told to always use this phone for contact. Zead then picked up the phone and talked for a bit, before quickly returning to the kitchen». When I told Sergei that I wanted to meet the ship's owner, he asked me to appraise the Wanzer. Apparently, the ship's owner claims to have brought a rare and valuable Wanzer that is the latest model that hasn't been released on the market yet, but I don't know how much I can trust him. So we decided to meet in person tonight and negotiate on whether to buy it, but he asked us to be present and appraise the ship's Wanzer. We are Wanzer experts, after all."

Mission 9 Nikolaev's Port

"My goodness, this is starting to get a little interesting."

Hermes's eyes sparkle behind her glasses.

"Of course, it's top secret which company is currently developing what kind of Wanzer, but we can guess roughly what level it will be. If they bring out an old prototype Wanzer that didn't make it into mass production, we'll know right away, and if we can see a truly rare, state-of-the-art model, we'd like to ask them to let us see it." «So, that's fine, we'll be present tonight when Sergei and the ship's owner meet to negotiate. Hermes, Latona, and Elsa, please accompany me. Bosch will wait here just in case."

Zead gave the instructions and we agreed without objection.

Then, at night, Sergei sent a car to pick us up, and we headed for the warehouse, located about halfway around the port. It was a distance we could easily walk to without having to take a car, but Sergei seemed worried that someone might notice us while we were traveling. Eventually, the car entered the warehouse, and the driver guided us out after we got out. The driver did not speak English, and could only converse with Latona, who spoke Ukrainian.

"It seems to be this way."

Saying so, Latona follows the driver up the stairs. This warehouse is also the one we use.

It appears to have roughly the same structure, with the upper floors serving as an office and residence». What's this? Isn't there a wanzer in this warehouse?» Hermes muttered as she chased after Latona, followed by Zead and me. Hermes seemed to be already preoccupied with appraising the wanzer, but Latona, Zead, and I, too, walked cautiously, looking for any signs of something unusual.

Fortunately, we arrived on the upper floor without incident. In the office were Sergei, two tall, burly men who looked like bodyguards, and three Asian men. One of the Asian men was a middle-aged man with an unattractive appearance, but the other two were young, agile men with sharp, alert eyes.

"Given his age, I wonder if this middle-aged man is the owner of the ship in question? He seems a bit absent-minded, but you can't really tell a person's identity just by their appearance ."

While I stared blankly without saying anything, Sergei introduced me in a calm tone.

"Welcome. This is Mr. Elger, a wanzer expert, and his staff. This is Mr. Chang, the owner of Bichu Shipping, and his nephews."«This is Chang Fei Jiang. It's nice to meet you», I introduced myself in heavily accented English, and Chang held out his hand. Taking his hand, Zead introduced himself as well.

Mission 9 Nikolaev's Port

"I'm Zead Elger. Nice to meet you."

After they shook hands, Sergei asked Chang:

"So, let's take a look at this precious wanzer. Where is it?"«It's ready to go and heading your way. It'll be at the back entrance of the warehouse shortly», Chang replied calmly.

"I'm not going to sell you a Wanzer that doesn't work, so don't worry."«This is my hometown. I'd rather not see you wandering around the harbor in a Wanzer or anything like that».

Sergei growled, raising an eyebrow, and Chang replied more calmly.

"No, no, don't worry. It's night, and there's no one around. We'll make sure to check the situation before we start the wanzer."

"That being said ."

Just as Sergei was about to complain further, there was a beeping sound and Chang pulled out an oddly large portable communicator from his inside pocket.

Then, picking up his handheld radio, Chang made a brief communication in what sounded like Chinese, then proudly told Sergei:

"The Wanzer arrived safely. There are no problems. Open the back door, the shutter.

Please."

"Then let's go downstairs."

With that, Sergei and his bodyguards left the room. Chang's group followed shortly after, and we followed behind them. Then, the back door of the warehouse was opened, and a Wanzer that had been waiting outside came in quietly.

"Th-This is!"

The moment we saw the Wanzer coming in, we all screamed in unison.

"That's a wanzer from the assault team! There's no doubt about it!"

"Yes, there's no mistaking it. The paint seems to be a little different, though."

Sergei asked in a tense tone as Latona groaned.

"A raiding party? What do you mean?"

You must have heard the news about the mysterious Wanzer units that attacked German military bases and facilities in new resource areas in Poland in E.C., right? We fought against that raiding force in Poland, and the Wanzers they were using were the same as these."

Sergei and Chang both opened their eyes wide at Latona's explanation.

"Chang! I don't think so, but did you get a wanzer from the unit that attacked E.C.?"

Mission 9 Nikolaev's Port

Did you come here?"

"No, that's not true! That can't be true! I got this Wanzer in South America !"

As Sergei approached him, Chang let out a panicked cry, but Hermes stepped in and interjected.

"South America? Where in South America?"

"It's in Venezuela. The port of Cumaná, Venezuela. There's no way the troops that attacked E.C. would be there?»

Hearing Chang's response, Hermes looks shocked and groans.

"Well, there's a reason for that. The unit that attacked E.C. was a special operations unit of Zaftra, and Frederick Lancaster had speculated that Zaftra was behind the Venezuelan independence struggle.

As I thought, Zaftra wanted to confuse E.C., present it to the greedy U-S-N. as bait, and then take Venezuela while the U.S.N. was distracted by E.C.!"«It seems that's the plan."

Zead agreed with a sad expression, then turned to Sergei and Chang.

"This is certainly a valuable Wanzer. As a unit, it is one that the Zaftra's military rarely takes outside.

Yes, it is a state-of-the-art machine manufactured by Dmitriy Kommunalp, but more than that, it is extremely valuable as physical evidence of an international conspiracy case.

However, on the other hand, Zaftra, the mastermind of the plot, will attempt to eliminate this unit and anyone who knows of its existence as quickly as possible. In that sense, it is more dangerous than valuable. So, Mr. Chang, please sell this unit to us. We belong to the E.C. Land-Based New Tactics Research Institute Durandal. If we expose Zaftra's plot using this unit as evidence, there will be no need to target those who know of the unit's existence."«Th-That's something to say out of the blue ."

As Chang becomes flustered and mutters, his nephews step forward with stern expressions, as if to protect their uncle. In response, Sergei's bodyguards also quickly step forward to protect their boss.

But at that moment, suddenly, behind them, a tremendous roar was heard and machine gun fire was fired at the shutters at the front entrance of the warehouse.

"Wh-what?"

Everyone turned around in shock, and at the same time, the shirt was torn apart without a moment's hesitation, and a jet-black Wanzer, somewhat small but with an extremely sinister impression, came charging in, machine gun in hand. The moment Sergei caught sight of it, his expression cramped, and he shouted.

Mission 9 Nikolaev's Port

"The Zaftra's military secret police? Why are they here?"

"You can think about it later! Everyone, run!"

Latona yelled, and everyone rushed towards the back door.

Meanwhile, the Zaftra-made Wanzer that Chang had brought along was unfortunately unarmed, but it boldly advanced forward and began punching the secret police Wanzer.

A harsh metallic sound rang out, and the Wanzer that had been hit flipped over unexpectedly easily. However, from behind it, another jet-black Wanzer entered through a gap in the Wanzer's armor and began firing its machine gun without asking any questions.

Then I realized something was wrong and shouted at Chang.

No ! If that Wanzer receives too much damage, it won't eject the pilot and will self-destruct ! If the pilot doesn't escape on his own, he won't be able to escape and will be burned to death!»

Chang frantically took out his handheld communicator and shouted in rapid Chinese. The Wanzer that had been hit and flipped over had already regained its balance, and the Wanzer that had come all the way from South America was now being fired upon by two enemy aircraft. As I held my breath, wondering if we could make it in time, the back of the Wanzer that was under fire suddenly opened up with a bang, and the small pilot jumped out.

"Come on, hurry up!"

We jumped to the floor, helped the rolling pilot up, and ran to the back door of the warehouse. The moment we got outside, a huge explosion occurred behind us, probably because the Wanzer had self-destructed, and we fell flat on the ground.

"Are you okay, Elsa?"

"Th-somehow."

I sat up as I heard Latona's concerned voice. Next to me, Chang and his nephews were surrounding the pilot who had successfully escaped.

But there was no time to relax. Just when we thought the self-destruct had destroyed the warehouse, two jet-black vans circled around the side of the burning warehouse, illuminating the surroundings with their searchlights, and approached. To our irritation, there didn't seem to be any visible damage.

Let's run away! We have to get on the Wanzer, otherwise there's no chance of winning!"

Latona yelled, dragging me to my feet. I also got up with all my might and ran off with Latona. I was curious as to where Zead, Hermes, and Sergei had gone, and in which direction Chang and the others had fled, but I didn't have time to look.

Then, perhaps because they had found someone, or simply to intimidate, or perhaps because they were just trying to hit someone, the secret police van began firing wildly. It didn't seem like they were aiming at us, but there were bullets all over his body.

Mission 9 Nikolaev's Port

I break out into a cold sweat

At that moment, a Wanzer with a machine gun in each hand came charging towards us from the direction we were heading. It wasn't a rugged silhouette like the ZAFTRA-made Wanzers. It was a slender, agile-looking Wanzer.

"It's a tattoo! A tattoo! Thank you!"

Latona let out a cry of joy. Zead had likely sent an emergency call. Bosch, who had been waiting, immediately activated his own machine and came to the rescue.

The secret police Wanzers immediately began firing at the charging new Wanzers, but Bosch's machine quickly saw through them and nimbly dodged them. If it had legs attached, not to mention hover leg equipment, there was no way that someone with the skill to dodge even a normal Wagner's shots would be able to take a hit from a Wanzer from the Zaftran army.

Meanwhile, the Bosch's shots accurately hit the enemy plane, and the small, thinly armored Secret Police Wanzer immediately caught fire with the W plane and came to a halt. Perhaps it had been caught in the self-destruct and damaged somewhere.

It seems that the Wanzers of the Zaftra's military secret police, unlike the machines of the special operations undercover units, are not equipped with self-destruct devices as standard, and the two stalled Wanzers eject their pilots.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

However, a large group of men, some of whom we didn't know where they came from, began to swarm around the cockpit from where it had been ejected. Latona and I exchanged glances for a moment, then quickly followed the men to where they were gathered.

I looked and saw a pilot in a jet black uniform being dragged out of the cockpit and disarmed at gunpoint. Then a man dressed in a similar outfit, presumably a pilot from the other cockpit, was being taken away by several other men. Then Sergei, accompanied by his bodyguards, came out of the crowd and asked one of the pilots something in what sounded like Zakhtrian language.

"What are you saying?"

"I'm asking why you broke into that warehouse. The secret police man flatly denies that he has anything to tell us... but...!»

At that moment, Latona turned pale and was speechless. Sergei pulled out a pistol and casually shot the pilot between the eyes. Sergei then turned to the other pilot and asked him the same question in a very matter-of-fact tone. Witnessing his colleague being shot, the other pilot replied in a low voice. Latona, hearing what he said, translated in a low voice.

"The Wanzer that Chang activated emitted an identification signal for special forces as soon as it was activated.

Mission 9 Nikolaev's Port

, the military secret police had rushed to the scene after receiving an identification signal that shouldn't have been emitted in a place like this, wondering what on earth had happened. The military secret police are guaranteed the right to investigate not only within Zaftra, but also in vassal states with which they have concluded an agreement... ouch!"

Again, Latona was speechless. Sergei had just shot and killed the pilot who was being questioned. Then he turned to us and said with a sad look on his face:

"Latona. I know that you Wanzer pilots have an unspoken rule not to kill pilots who escape when their unit is destroyed. However, before they are Wanzer pilots, these guys are members of the Zaftra's military secret police. Whether they talk or not, we have no choice but to kill them. If we let them live, it will certainly be the ruin of all of us. Understand that».

"Yes, I can understand it rationally."

As Latona was speechless, I tried my best to answer in a calm tone.

"You have a responsibility to your organization. You can't be held accountable for your personal feelings».

"I'm glad that you seem to understand."

Sergei responded in a tone that didn't sound very happy.

"We will take care of the rest. You should have boarded Chang's ship and left Nikolaev in a hurry.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

"If the secret police come to investigate, the foreigners will arrive on a boat, suddenly unload their vans and start fighting. We locals will just run away and have no idea what's going on. That's the excuse we can use».

"Does that excuse even work?"

Sergei responded to Latona's strained question with a lonely smile.

"It may not be accepted in Zafra, but this is a foreign country. There is no evidence to prove that our excuse is a lie, and the Zafra's military secret police cannot detain or arrest people without evidence. And the Ukrainian authorities will undoubtedly support the theory that the fighting is being carried out by unidentified foreigners."

"But can we trust Chang?"

Latona asked again, and Sergei nodded with more confidence this time.

「It'll be fine. If things turn out like this, we're in the same boat.

Besides, your daughter helped Chan's family when they were aboard the Wanzer, right ? Those guys may not follow the law, but they do follow their obligations. They wouldn't do anything to harm someone who has benefactored their family, unless it was absolutely necessary».

"I see"

When her expression became convinced, Latona stepped forward in front of Sergei and said.

Mission 9 Nikolaev's Port

"Father, I may never have another chance, so I'll say it now. I really thank you. Thanks to you, my friends and I, we may somehow be able to escape death.

I've caused you a lot of trouble, but I'll never forget this kindness."

"What's so troubling about it? What we signed with you was a legitimate business contract, as per the market. Besides, even if you hadn't come, Chang would have brought in a dangerous wanzers, and the secret police would have surely raided us. In fact, you guys saved us."

Sergei added with a grin.

"However, that doesn't mean I'll discount the fee we agreed on."

MISSION 10

Iberian Megafloat

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

"Yes, meeting Renges at the port of Cumana was where things started to get bad», Chang told me shortly after our boat departed Nikolaev in a hurry. When I asked him for more details on how he ended up buying a Zafra-made Wanzer in Venezuela, Chang told me with a wry smile.

"Renges is a USN NCO who drives a Wanzer, and he's a guy who can skillfully disguise military equipment and sell it on the black market. We've been friends for a long time. Renges contacted me to say that he'd been called up to help with the unit putting down the Venezuelan independence struggle, and that he thought he could give me plenty of equipment that had been lost in battle, so I headed for the port of Cumaná in Venezuela. Well, even if it weren't for the incident with Yakko-san, weapons and supplies can be sold for a high price in conflict zones. Unlike E.C. and other places, import regulations are relaxed in South America, so as a merchant, I can't overlook this.

However, the USN• troops were marching much slower than expected. When I arrived in Cumana, there was no sign of the USN• troops. I thought they would march to Cumana and besiege Caracas, but the Venezuelan state army was following the orders of the governor who had declared independence.

Mission 10 Iberia Megafloat

It seems like you did surprisingly well.

So, I thought that if the USN troops hadn't come, there was no way that the Renges could come either, so I gave up on buying new goods and sold the weapons and supplies I had brought with me. I don't know if they were related to the state military or anti-government guerrillas, but a Venezuelan customer came and bought them at a high price. Up until that point, well, everything was going well.

However, while the U.S.N. military was still sulking far away, Renges suddenly appeared in Cumana. He was accompanied by two soldiers who he called his friends. I think their names were Darril and Chaeffer. That's when it dawned on me. They must have deserted the military because their illegal drug trafficking was about to be discovered».

Chang said, shrugging.

"Sure enough, Renges said he wanted to leave Venezuela immediately, and asked me to take him on his ship. I was also free to leave, as my business had almost finished. Renges said he wanted to load the three Wanzers and one container that he was carrying. I told him», We've known each other for a long time. As long as you pay me, I'll put you on the ship without making any complaints. But if there's anything else you want to load, you'll have to bring it to the ship yourself». Renges then came to the pier with the Wanzers and container on a trailer, but to my surprise, it wasn't one belonging to the USN military, but a state military trailer. So that's why we went into Cumana.

I guess they wouldn't have been suspicious if they had bought it, but where did you guys get it? It just seemed more and more suspicious and dangerous to me.

Moreover, at the time, another group was in the middle of unloading wanzers and supplies at the pier of the Cumana port, and they had arbitrarily blocked off part of the road. I thought that Oceana Yohei had been hired by the state military to help us.

I thought that the people who had come were mercenary troops from around O.C.U., but it was actually the Zafran army.

So I told Renges to wait quietly until the road closure was over, but who knows who made a mistake and it turned into a total mess. Renges and the others unloaded their Wanzers from the trailer and began fighting. They were free to do as they please, but what was disappointing was that the Wanzers trying to stop them even boarded my ship. I managed to take down the first ones that boarded with a hidden rocket launcher, but if they kept coming one after another, it would be impossible to protect myself. I left Renges and the others fighting behind and forced my way away from the pier. It would be all for nothing if the ship was seized."«It's true that from the shipowner's point of view it was probably right to hurry and get away, but the guys who were left behind probably didn't think that way."

Bosch retorted with a wry smile, to which Chang sighed dramatically and threw up his hands.

Mission 10 Iberia Megafloat

"Well, if the Renges and the others had started a battle for me, I wouldn't have left them behind so easily. But that's not the case. They came here on their own, and started a battle on their own. I have no obligation to join them and put myself in danger."

"Well, that's beside the point. The Wanzer you brought to Nikolaev was the one that was shot down with a direct hit from a rocket cannon, and then boarded the ship in Cumana, right? It didn't seem to have much damage considering that, so did they bother to repair it? Also, what happened to the pilot that was aboard?"

Latona asked, and Chang answered quite casually.

"The truth is, the rocket cannon that took a direct hit didn't detonate. However, it seems the hit was in a good spot, and the Wanzer flipped over and stopped moving. The explosive grenade cannon it was holding was dented and unusable, but the Wanzer itself was barely scratched. We then opened the hatch from the outside and pulled the pilot out, and found that he had fainted from the impact. We wanted to talk to him once he regained consciousness, so we restrained his hands and feet, but carried him to the medical room.

a doctor. But as soon as he regained consciousness, he died. The ship's doctor said he had bitten into a poison that had been hidden in his teeth. There was absolutely no reason for him to die."«...Those people always want to hurry people to death». Latona glared at him with a bitter expression and asked further.

"So what happened to the pilot's body?"

"I looked to see if he had anything that could indicate his affiliation or identity, but there was nothing. I don't know anything. I had no choice but to have him buried at sea».

We looked at each other in surprise at Chan's response.

Of course, Chan's feeling that the body of an unknown foreigner cannot be left on board for a long time is perfectly reasonable, and we have no right to criticize them. Moreover, even if we did, there would be no point in criticizing them now.

However, even though it looked like they might be able to obtain a Wanzer of the same model as the assault force, the main unit of the Wanzer self-destructed in Nikolaev, and the pilot's remains were at the bottom of the sea, leaving no physical evidence at hand. In all fairness, it was lucky enough that all the members were able to escape Zaftra safely, but it was still disappointing, as it looked like they might be able to obtain evidence from an unexpected route». So, in the end, all that's left is a broken explosive cannon», Zead said, half talking to himself, and Chang nodded slightly.

"That's right. But the explosive shell cannon wasn't made by Zaftra. I think it was a fairly common bore 36."

"Well, that's not evidence at all."

When Hermes sighed, Latona groaned with a difficult expression.

Mission 10 Iberia Megafloat

"The Zafra's military insists on making the Wanzers themselves domestically, but most of the weapons for the Wanzers are foreign-made. I'm sure they don't produce most of them domestically." «Well, just getting the certainty that the Zafra's military is actively operating in Venezuela is a great accomplishment. It would be better if we could obtain physical evidence, but no matter what we bring, there will be people who call it a fabrication."

After making the bold statement, Zead turned to Chang and asked, "Well, I think it's about time to contact Durandal HQ and ask them to send a transport plane to pick us up, but can I use their communications equipment?" «Yes, if we're this far out to sea, I think it should be fine. Just to be safe, check with the communications engineer."

After saying that, Chang continued with a straight face. you still need to keep your business dealings in order». "I see. If I can use this, I don't mind paying extra. It's pretty much the ultimate homemade communication system, isn't it?"

Hermes, who had just entered the ship's communications room, suddenly let out a cry of admiration. Then, perhaps, this person also

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

A young Asian woman wearing glasses who was sitting in front of the radio, probably a relative of Chang's, looked at Hermes with a surprised expression and asked in perfect English.

"Oh, you understand?"

"Yeah, I know. We're going to hack into the satellite communications system and scramble to prevent our identities from being traced.

Mega Terminal

"They're using a rogue communications center somewhere, I think, and they're changing the disguise every time they send a message. It's not like they're spending a ridiculous amount of money on it, but it's an elaborate system."

Hermes quickly replied, and the woman who seemed to be a communications engineer smiled». Hmm, it seems you have quite an eye for this. Normally I would take the message and send it out myself, but why don't you try using it yourself?"

"Well, it's an honor."

Returning the smile, Hermes sat in the seat the woman had offered her and began operating the machine». Okay, we've found a route to Durandal HQ. It's dangerous to communicate leisurely, so we'll send a message one way, but where should we plan to meet up?"«Yes. If we send a transport to the Black Sea, there's a chance it will be caught in the air defense network of the Zafra countries. It'll be safer if the ship leaves the Bosphorus and enters Greek territorial waters», groaned Zead, looking thoughtful.

Mission 10 Iberia Megafloat

"In any case, we'll have no choice but to make contact once we get close. Would it be a bad idea to designate this ship to make the communication?»

"Well, Durandal is also being quite cautious about communications security. Just in case, it'd be better not to specify a channel that could lead to the identification of this ship», Hermes replied, and the ship's communications engineer next to her nodded.

"It's common sense for communications between shady parties to be scrambled multiple times, so we can deal with it even if a direct communication comes in here. But I'd appreciate a break from amateurs sending raw communications like that."

"Okay, then I'll have my Wanzer be the final recipient of the communication. That way, there won't be any trouble for this ship."

As she spoke, Hermes operated the keyboard. Suddenly, the communications engineer stopped her with a sharp yell.

"Wait a moment. No matter how high-powered a Wanzer's communication device is, there's only a limited range, right? If you communicate outside that range, won't you be interrupting this ship's system and using it without permission?"

"Yes. Even if someone were to intercept and analyze the communication, this ship would be treated as a victim whose communication system had been accidentally interrupted and used without permission. We wouldn't be subject to any serious investigation.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

I think so: ••: Oh, that's right, technically it will be unauthorized use, but I'll pay the system usage fee."

Realizing what the other person was trying to say, Hermes quickly added, and the communications engineer grinned and nodded.

"Ok, as long as you pay the usage fee, there's no problem."

"Hmm. I know it's a little late to say this, but the power of money is great."

Bosch growled in a very serious tone.

Hermes then sent a message to Durandal HQ, and following instructions from Zead, began the process of transferring funds from Durandal's bank account to Bichu Shipping's account, stating that it was for shipping charges and the like.

However, even after the procedure was completed, Hermes continued to stare at the computer screen connected to the communication device with a difficult expression.

"What's wrong? Is there still something you want to do?"

Seed asked, and Hermes answered, still staring at the display screen.

"It might be a no-go, I think it's almost a no-go, but maybe we should try contacting Venezuela." «Venezuela? Venezuela, who?"

Mission 10 Iberia Megafloat

Latona asked in a shocked tone, and Hermes replied with a sullen look on his face, without moving his eyes from the display screen.

"It would be best if we could contact that bad USN NCO called Renges that Chang mentioned. He's in direct combat with the Zaftra forces at Cumana Port, after all. He might have some evidence."

"Well, that may be a possibility, but when and how would you contact them?» When I asked, Hermes for some reason turned around and began to explain.

"If we search for» NCO Renges, a regular USN unit deployed to Venezuela», we can immediately find out which unit he belongs to. It's not a very common name, and if there are multiple people with the same name, we can narrow it down to Darril and Chaeffer, and see if there are soldiers with those names in the same unit. We should be able to identify him without a doubt. And once we know the unit, we can contact him».

"But according to what Chang said, Renges is a deserter from the main force, right? Even if you contact his unit, he won't be there».

In response to Bosch's comment, Hermes nodded with a bitter expression.

"That's the problem, but I think there's a possibility that Rengesu, who was left behind by Chang, who he was counting on, will have no choice but to return to his original unit. Well, if you say that, then he was attacked by the Zaftran army in Cumana.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

There's a chance that she did it."

"That's true. Well, as long as there are no specific disadvantages or dangers to contacting Venezuela, it doesn't matter if the chances of contacting them are slim. Even if it doesn't work, it would be an advantage if something does happen, so I think it's worth a try."

Latona spoke in a surprisingly straightforward tone, causing Hermes to widen her eyes.

"I think so?"

"Yeah. Whatever it is, I think it's better to try it than not to try it at all. But you need to be careful about managing the risks».

When Latona spoke, Zead responded with a wry smile.

"Normally, there would be risks in us contacting the USN's frontline forces directly. But contacting forces in Venezuela is so unexpected that no one would be on guard. I think we should give it a try."«Okay, well, let's give it a try!"

After saying this in an encouraging tone, Hermes began to work on his keyboard». I wonder how to spell it RENGES. I'm not really sure how to pronounce it like Chang."«It's R•E•N•G•E•S. BILLY RENGES."

The communications engineer instructed the dazzling Hermes.

Mission 10 Iberia Megafloat

"Thank you . Do you know Renges?"

Hermes asked, and the communications engineer smiled enigmatically and replied», Of course I do. We've been business partners for a long time», and then she added, half to herself.

"Billy Renges is an incredibly tenacious guy. I don't know if he's in a place where I can contact him, but I don't think he's dead."

"Hmm ."

With a somewhat unsatisfied look on her face, Hermes continued typing on the keyboard.

"Yes, there it is. Corporal Billy Renges, USN Regular Army 332nd Task Force, Fifth Squad. The fifth squad leader is Sergeant Darril Traubel. Another squad member is Philip Chaeffer.

trio

Private First Class. There's no doubt about it, it's this trio."

"Hmm. Chaeffer seems to be practically a new recruit, but the two NCOs, Renges and Darril, have quite a long military history. Have they been piloting Wanzers for that long?» Latona asked, peering at the display screen. Hermes then brought up another piece of data and nodded.

"Apparently, that's the case. They were both trained as Wanzers from the beginning and have been a pair ever since. They've had quite a few military achievements and even have a few medals.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

"Darril was promoted to special sergeant and provisionally commissioned as a warrant officer, but was later reprimanded for disobeying orders and all of his commissions were revoked. After that, the two were both transferred from the security forces to regular forces, and since then, they don't seem to have had any notable achievements or punishments».

"I see. Maybe he went astray somewhere around there."

Latona dazzled with an expression of understanding.

"A skilled Wanzerr NCO who was scouted by the security forces for his achievements got into a fight with his superiors, was punished, and lost interest in the military. But he didn't quit, and instead just hung around, occasionally smuggling supplies on the black market while still brazenly staying in the army. Those guys are definitely tough enough to survive even if you kill them."

"Yes, it seems that way. There are people like that in every army», said Bosch, nodding next to him and sounding a little suspicious.

what would make such a shrewd NCO suddenly want to leave the military, a world he was so familiar with? Even if he was found guilty of illegally diverting supplies, it wouldn't be a serious crime. At best he'd be sent to the guardhouse, or at worst he'd be dishonorably discharged. But deserting on the battlefield would mean, at worst, being shot for desertion in the face of the enemy. Even if he managed to escape, he'd never be able to return to his homeland. I think the risks are high, with all the bullying and swearing involved."

"You'll have to ask Renges or Darril to find out. Well, even if you ask them, they won't tell you.

Mission 10 Iberia Megafloat

"I'm not sure, but I think the container they were trying to bring onto the ship with the van was suspicious», Latona said confidently.

came across some treasure by chance - gold, or art, or a prototype for a new weapon - that would allow them to live a comfortable life if they brought it to the right place. Even if they had reported their discovery of such a thing to their superiors, they would have been finished in a single bite. I can understand the psychology of wanting to take a gamble and run away with it."

"I'm a little surprised you can understand those people without criticizing them», Hermes glared at Latona, who snorted.

What are you talking about? I am the daughter of a hero and a respected officer, but I abandoned the Zaftran army and fled to E.C., making me a complete failure as a soldier. If you belong to an army that doesn't adequately reward you for risking your life for it, any sane person would scream and run away the moment they got the chance to do so».

"Oh my, that hurts my ears."

Zead groaned with a wry smile.

"Well, even if Renges or Darril were deserters before the enemy of the USN military and fraudulent misappropriators, as long as they could provide useful information, Durandal would have no problem with it.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

"No. If they ask for protection or help with their escape, we should comply as much as possible."«Of course, if we can't get in touch with them, there's no point in providing protection or assistance», Hermes said, tapping away at the keyboard.

"Okay, I've got the 332nd Task Force's official communications channel. Shall I broadcast a message or make a call?"

"Making a phone call is way too risky. You don't even know who's on the other end», Latona said, frowning.

"Please contact Darril, Renges, and Chaeffer. Send a simple message saying we're ready to help, and leave the Hermes wanzers as your contact information. Even if they managed to evade the Zaftra forces in Cumana, they're probably in a tight spot now with no way to escape. If they get the message, they'll contact you as a last resort."«But, how should I put it, this is a really suspicious message. If I were you, I don't think I'd feel like contacting them even if I was in deep trouble."

When Bosch commented, Latona lightly retorted.

you can't just say, 'E.C. Land Tactical Research Institute Durandal is looking for information on the Zaftra's military special operations unit deployed in Venezuela, so please contact me.'

Mission 10 Iberia Megafloat

Well, I think the Renges are not as careful as Bosch. If Bosch were in their position, he would not have caused trouble at the port of Cumana and been left behind by Chang».

"More importantly, I don't know what kind of treasure it is, but there's no way I could ever leave an army in battle with such valuables. I'm a coward, after all», Bosch said, shrugging.

Then Hermes turned to ask Zead.

"I don't know. I think messaging is safer than calling."

"That's true. If we want to send a message, we'll have to do as Latona said and use an ambiguous message with no clear identity. There's a chance that someone other than the intended recipient will contact us, so we need to be very careful about that."

Zead tilts his head thoughtfully.

"Now that I think of it, how are calls addressed to your wanzer handled? You don't have to get on the wanzer to receive them, do you? Do you have them automatically forwarded to your mobile phone?"

"Oh, of course."

When Hermes responded, Zead's expression tightened and he nodded.

"I see. In that case, I know this might not be what you want, but I want you to change the settings so that any communication addressed to your Wanzer is forwarded to all of our portable communication devices simultaneously. If it's a communication from the Durandal transport plane, we might be able to make it wait a little, but if a call request comes in from Venezuela while you're deep asleep, you might end up regretting it later."«I see. It's true, it wouldn't be wise for me to be responsible for receiving it all by myself». Hermes nodded and gave a wry smile.

"In the worst case scenario, the 332nd Mobile Squadron may be defeated by the Zafra's military and the radio operator may be captured. And it's not impossible that the Zafra side, having obtained the recorded message, may send a probing transmission. Well, if that happens, we may be able to obtain useful data, but we need to be extremely careful in how we respond. At the very least, we shouldn't communicate while half asleep."

"Yes, that's right."

Zead responded with a serious look on his face. And Hermes began to operate the keyboard again with furious vigor.

"Okay, then I'll send a message to the 332nd Task Force in Venezuela, saying that we'll be ready to respond to any communication that comes our way, no matter who it is.

Now we just have to wait for the reaction."

Mission 10 Iberia Megafloat

My portable communicator emitted a ringtone indicating it was in talk mode, and without really thinking about it, I pressed the communication button almost reflexively to answer.

"yes?"

"Is that you? You're the one who sent the misleading message saying you're ready to help. I'm Darril, one of the three people named in the message», came the slightly low male voice from the handheld, which I'd never heard before. For a moment, I thought», Oh no!", but now that I'd received the message, it was too late to ask another member to take over. I steeled myself and answered the handheld.

"Nice to meet you. I'm Elsa. I'm part of the group that sent you a message saying we're ready to help».

"I see. So, what kind of support are you going to provide us with?» the man who called himself Darril asked directly, sounding a bit hasty.

I took a deep breath and answered as calmly as possible.

"If you want, I can help you escape the country, subject to certain conditions."

"Hmm... What are the conditions?"

Darril asks in a straightforward manner. So I also ask him the question I want to know.

It was to be.

"I heard that you engaged in battle with the Zaftran army at Cumana Port. Did you capture their Wanzers or take their soldiers prisoner?" «The Zaftran army? Are they the Zaftran army?"

Darril exclaimed in surprise, apparently not knowing who they were fighting.

"Yes, it is definitely the Zaftran army. However, we need physical evidence that it is the Zaftran army that is there. If you have any evidence, we promise to provide as much support as possible in exchange."

"Well, unfortunately we didn't have the time to capture the Ventours. They self-destruct as soon as they suffer any major damage. So, we took the prisoners... but they got away», Darril replied, and I couldn't help but sigh in disappointment.

Then, apparently hearing a sigh, Darril immediately responded.

"I'm sorry to disappoint you, but there's still a chance. In a strange turn of events, we're about to launch a surprise attack on their base. We might find some evidence there."

"A surprise attack on the Zaftran army's base?"

Mission 10 Iberia Megafloat

I was astonished at this unexpected turn of events.

"Just the three of you?"

"No, that's not the case. There are a lot of people who are fighting together due to various reasons. Well, we have a fair amount of fighting power, so there's no need to worry».

Darril spoke in a fairly casual tone, although it was possible he was using that tone intentionally.

"So, if we find any evidence that would be useful, we'd like you to let us leave Venezuela in exchange. Could you send over a transport plane that can carry three or four Ventours? With a pilot?»

"Yes, I think I can."

I assured him, thinking that the large transport planes at Durandal HQ should be more than capable of getting us to Venezuela and back.

"However, since it would be trespassing, even if Venezuela is in a state of chaos and their air defenses are lax, we probably can't stay there for long. We'll only do it once, at the place and time you specify. If we make a mistake and are unable to meet, we'll just withdraw. It's also dangerous to communicate, so once we take off, there won't be any changes to our plans."

"Yes, that's fine. We can't put the transport plane in danger after all the trouble it took to get here.

Darril responded understandably, and after a short pause he continued.

"Hey, Elsa.

"I can't tell you, and you don't have to tell me, but how on earth did you guys know about our situation? That we fought in Cumana, that we were trying to escape the country..."«I heard about that from Chang of Bichu Shipping», I replied, and Darril suddenly raised his voice and shouted», Chang! You're the arms smuggler! That bastard just ran off on his own, leaving us behind! What a terrible guy!»

"Well, I understand that you're angry, but it seems he has a point. I heard that the Zaftran army's Wanzers boarded the ship, and it was impossible for them to stay at the dock any longer."

I wondered why I had to defend Chang, but I spoke in a soothing tone. Darril suddenly sounded worried». That's right. So, were you able to safely repel the Wanzer that boarded the ship ? You're not saying that Chang or the crew were killed or anything like that, are you?"«Fortunately, it seems that no one on board the ship was injured», I added silently», although the Wanzer pilot committed suicide."

Mission 10 Iberia Megafloat

Then Darril yelled again, his voice booming again.

"I see. Well, tell that bastard Chang that next time we meet, we won't let him get away with it ! And make sure he stays safe until we pay him back for leaving us behind!"

"Okay. I'll let them know."

"So you want to tell me to stay healthy until we meet again», I replied with a bitter smile. It's a rather twisted expression, but there are quite a lot of men who have been in the military for a long time, especially soldiers and non-commissioned officers, who say things like this. I know this because there are some in my family too.

"Well then, I will contact you again once I have gathered evidence at the Zaftra base. It will probably be two or three days."

"Please, be very careful."

Darril sounded full of confidence, as if winning, surviving, and obtaining evidence was a fait accompli, so I couldn't help but express concern in my tone.

"Waiting for the next communication ¹ -

"Oh, don't worry."

Darril replied with a laugh.

"I'd come back without dying, just to hear your charming French accent again.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

Okay. Well then, see you later."

And then the call was cut off.

I can't imagine that a Zafra's military agent would be able to pull off something so stylish».

Latona said this with a serious look on her face after listening to the conversation between me and Darril that was recorded on the portable communicator. Bosch responded with a frown.

"I mean, there's almost no chance that this was a plot by the Zaftran army, right? They probably don't know about Chang."

If Darril and the others are captured at Cumana Port and forced to confess everything about who they were with and what they were doing there, then word of Chang will be leaked to the Zafra's military», Latona pointed out in a nonchalant tone, a rather frightening possibility». But if a Zaftran spy is masquerading as Darril, they'll persistently question us about our true identities. Then they'll say they have a captured Wanzer in their possession and demand that we send someone to pick them up right away. There's no reason we have to go to such a roundabout venue to launch a surprise attack on the base and get evidence."

"That's true."

Mission 10 Iberia Megafloat

Zead nodded thoughtfully.

"Once suspicions begin to grow, there's no limit, but we can safely conclude that we've been able to contact Sergeant Darril of the USN military. Therefore, if he really does get evidence, we need to make arrangements to have a transport plane sent from Durandal HQ to Venezuela right away."

"Because this will be a highly unusual and dangerous mission, we won't be able to select pilots according to the regular rotation».

Hermes scratched her head and groaned.

"You'd be best off asking **Captain Robert**. He's probably on his way to the Aegean Sea to pick us up».

At that moment, everyone's mobile phones started to emit a ringing sound indicating they were in talk mode.

"a...:"

"It might be from Darril. Elsa, take it.

Following Zead's instructions, I pressed the communication button.

"yes?"

"This is Robert. We have arrived at the designated airspace. Your ship has been identified by the Wanzer identification signal. With a ship this large, it should be able to land on the deck with no problem».

Captain Robert's crisp voice came from the handheld, and the atmosphere in the room relaxed.

nothing.

"This is Elsa. I'm really glad you could come. I'll get permission from the captain to land right away, so please wait a bit».

When I replied, a male voice, not Captain Robert's, suddenly came from the handheld». Elsa, I'm glad you're safe! I had heard that everyone was safe, but I was really worried and worried!»

"Betsuku?"

My eyes widened and I glanced down at the handheld communicator.

"You came all the way to the Aegean Sea too?"

"Oh my, what cold words to say, even though I rushed over with everything I could grab! And besides, it's pretty bad that you left me behind at HQ! Are you saying I'm not a member of Durandal?"

Beck was lamenting in a very theatrical way, and feeling a bit overwhelmed, I responded rather coldly.

"I'll tell you about it when we meet in person. For now, I need permission to land. So, Ay—

I'll hang up for now. That's all."

"Hey, hey, that's true, but come on ."

Mission 10 Iberia Megafloat

Ignoring Betku's persistent complaints, I hung up the mobile phone. Then Latona smiled and tapped me lightly on the shoulder.

"That's pretty harsh. After all, you came all the way from HQ to help us." «Yeah, I agree. I appreciate the thought, but just because Betsuku came doesn't mean I have any idea what she's going to do for us."

With that said, I shrugged.

We then got permission from Chang to land, contacted the transport plane again, and had it descend to the deck. Even though the plane was capable of vertical landing, it required considerable skill to land properly on the deck of a civilian ship that wasn't an aircraft carrier or anything like that, but Captain Robert was a skilled pilot and managed to pull it off without any trouble.

"Well then, we will now take our leave. Thank you for all your help." said our goodbyes to Chang before boarding the Wanzer stored in the hold for the journey to the transport.

"If we're destined to meet again, let's meet again"

"That's true. Well, it seems like you guys are involved in some dangerous work that involves national conflicts, so I don't think I'd go out of my way to stick my nose into your business. But if it's something that could lead to business, I'm always open to it». After saying this, Chang, with an oddly serious look on his face, asked Zead,

"I haven't really explored the position you guys hold until now, but perhaps you're allies of justice that span the globe?"

"No, I don't think so."

Zead responded with a wry smile, shook hands with Chang, and climbed into the Wanzer. Then, once we had all boarded the Wanzer and finished moving from Chang's ship, Captain Robert immediately launched the transport.

"Honestly, even within E.C.'s territorial waters, we can't afford to take it easy. The E.C. Combined Navy has been urgently called into action on a quasi-war footing, and the military of each country is on edge, especially the navy and air force. If we were seen landing on a civilian ship with armed Wanzers on board, who knows what kind of reprimand we'd get."

"Hmm, I guess so."

Zead got off the Wanzer and immediately went to the transport plane's cockpit, and frowned as he listened to Captain Robert's explanation.

"In any case, we must contact Undersecretary Allison. I'll use your radio."«Undersecretary Allison? I believe Parliamentary Undersecretary Allison of the British State Department is with Prime Minister Noland at the E.C. Parliament headquarters in Paris. Do you think we can get through to him in this situation?» Captain Robert looked suspicious, apparently unaware of the special relationship between Zead and Undersecretary Allison.

Mission 10 Iberia Megafloat

Zead tilted his head, but continued to operate the transport plane's communication device. Glancing sideways at him, Hermes whispered.

"I see, so there is a secret code to directly interrupt the Vice Minister's portable radio. That certainly means there is no way we can use the radio on Chang's ship. It would be far too dangerous for both the sender and the receiver."

"Of course. In reality, it's not a good idea to communicate from a transport plane, but it can't be helped. I trust that even if you know this secret code, you won't try to misuse it."

Apparently having heard Hermes's glare, Zead responded without turning around while operating the communication device. Hermes' expression was complicated, but before he could say anything, Zead finished operating it and glared at him.

"Now, if she's able to pick up her mobile phone, we should be able to connect."

"Zead? Are you okay?"

Deputy Secretary Allison's voice came over the radio, sounding quite tense. Zead responded in a calm tone.

"I and my teammates are all safe. We are currently in the skies above Greece in a transport plane we called from HQ. Are you in a position to have a lengthy conversation?"

"It's okay. How did the illegal investigation go?"

The Undersecretary asked with a tone of clear relief. Zead answered matter-of-factly». When I went to Wassau, I found that the pipeline station, which was supposed to have been decommissioned, was being heavily guarded by the Blauer Nebels and was ready for immediate use. In fact, we had used a pipeline vehicle to enter Zaftra, but the Zaftran army blew up the pipeline and forcibly prevented us from entering.

Operational data and the like had been erased, and there was no conclusive proof that the forces that had attacked the German military base and the new resource areas in Poland were Zaftra forces that had invaded and retreated through the pipeline, but the circumstances make it almost certain. In other words, now that the pipeline that was the intrusion route has been blown up, there is no risk of a mysterious Wanzer unit suddenly appearing within EC- for the time being."«That should be considered good news for now, I guess. With the current situation showing that the USN fleet's invasion of Madeira seems unavoidable."

With a sigh, Deputy Director Allison responded.

"If it was Zaftra that sent the Wanzers unit, does that mean that u-s-N• and Zaftra had a secret agreement at some point to attack E.C.?"

We are Oceana

If that's the case, E.C. has no chance of winning. The best he can do is to go to O.C.U. and beg for reinforcements».

Mission 10 Iberia Megafloat

"No, it seems that's not the case. By pure coincidence, while we were escaping from Zaftra, we discovered that the Zaftra's military had sent an undercover operation unit into the USN's Venezuelan state to foment an independence struggle. If all goes well, we may have concrete evidence within the next few days».

Deputy Secretary Allison was clearly taken aback by what Zead said.

"What was that?

the New Continent that attacked and disrupted E.C.

Was it to divert u- s- N's attention?"

"That's a strong possibility. Frederick Lancaster had also speculated in that way, and I've heard that the USN Atlantic Fleet heading for Madeira was originally meant to be sent to Venezuela as reinforcements.

"E.C. has been used as a decoy», Zead said in a calm, bitter tone.

Deputy Secretary Allison was speechless for a moment, but then replied in a forced voice.

"That would be extremely infuriating, but there may be a better way to deal with it than if the USN and Zaftra had made a secret agreement and conspired to attack the E.C.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

No matter how much the US Navy cares about Madeira, if they see that Venezuela is on fire, they will have no choice but to make that their priority».

"That's true. However, if we wait until the USN realizes its mistake, the situation will become chaotic and Zafra, who hatched the conspiracy, will reap the benefits. Ideally, I would like the situation to develop in such a way that the USN fleet is forced to return to their home country in a hurry before attacking Madeira Island», said Zead, and Undersecretary Allison responded in a somewhat calmer voice.

"The combined fleet of the E.C. Navy is gathering at the Iberia Megafloat to hold back the USN fleet. If the USN fleet goes ahead with a landing on Madeira, they'll target that spot and disrupt it with missiles, aircraft, and submarines. If it turns into a full-scale fleet battle, the chances of winning are slim, but if they can draw the enemy into a war of attrition while relying on the Megafloat to replenish their supplies, that's how the E.C. Navy thinks they can buy themselves a lot of time."

"Well, if we can buy time as planned, we may be able to defend Madeira until the USN notices the worsening situation in Venezuela. However, there is also a possibility that the USN fleet will not want to withdraw after being beaten down, so they will launch an aggressive offensive.

Moreover, missile attacks aside, a fleet attack by aircraft or submarines would not leave the attacking side unscathed. Even if supplies could be resupplied by megafloats, would the ragtag E.C. Combined Fleet be able to withstand the loss of personnel?

Mission 10 Iberia Megafloat

Well, there's no point in me worrying about the Navy's operations."

As Zead spoke with a wry smile, Hermes suddenly spoke up in a low voice.

"It might only buy you some time, but if that's okay, I can take down the computer systems of the USN fleet and put them in a state where they can't fight. I've actually managed to break through the security systems used by the USN military without anyone noticing."

"Huh?"

Not only Zead, but everyone in the cockpit all turned to look at Hermes with wide eyes.

Then Hermes continued in a very unwilling tone.

"However, once the USN fleet is in combat mode, there's no way we can do anything. If we were to do it, it would have to be before the war broke out. If we were allowed to use the Iberia Megafloat's communications equipment, I think we could attack from a fair distance."

"I see. It is possible to render them unable to fight, but it is morally and physically impossible for E.C. to take advantage of that and launch a battle. So it only serves to buy us some time."

Bosch nodded, looking quickly convinced.

And Hermes nodded back unamusedly.

"That's right. So, if I'll be allowed to be selfish, I'd like to communicate while the USN fleet is unable to fight and persuade Commander Maddox. There's no point in talking if he's a battle-buff, but if it's the cunning Maddox, he might quickly withdraw his fleet if he sees that the winds are turning bad. But that's just wishful thinking."« Cecil, did you hear Hermes' proposal?» Zead asked into the comm, and the voice of Deputy Minister Allison answered immediately.

"I heard that. If you can do it, I'd love to, that's all I can say. It's an incredibly attractive proposal. However, I can't decide on it on my own, so may I speak to the Prime Minister about it?"

"Yes, go ahead and talk to him. Is that okay, Hermes?» Zead pressed her, and Hermes looked frowned, but nodded firmly». Yes. I mean, if it wasn't okay, we wouldn't be talking about this in the first place."«In that case, I'll talk to the Prime Minister as quickly as possible. And once we've come to a decision, I'll get back to you right away. With that, I'll hang up for now», Under Secretary Allison said, hanging up the phone.

And so, silence fell on the cockpit for a moment. It was broken by Hermes.

Mission 10 Iberia Megafloat

"Robert, did the equipment I ordered from the factory arrive in time?" «Yes, it's been loaded into the hangar on board. It hasn't been set up yet, but...». Captain Robert responded, and Hermes nodded with a stern look on her face». I'll set it up. They should be able to finish the work by the time we get to HQ or Iberia Megafloat.

with the high sensor is that if I set up a guidance device on my Wanzer, I won't be able to put high-performance sensors on it.

As for the high-performance sensor, if we can get support from the air, we shouldn't need high-performance sensors that much." «No, you can't just assume that. You never know what's going to happen on the battlefield. High-performance sensors

I'll take either the device or the advanced detection device». Suddenly Beck spoke up from the side, and this time Hermes looked stunned». You? Are you planning to go out onto the battlefield in a Wanzer?" «Look, I guess it can't be helped if Leader, Latona, Bosch, or Elsa tell me so, but I don't want to hear it from you. It's true that with my skills, if I went out into the middle of a close combat or gunfight I might just be a hindrance. But as long as I'm staying in the rear with a guidance device and advanced detection device on my back, it shouldn't be much of a problem», Beck said, puffing out his chest with great pride.

"Besides, I was frustrated at being left behind, so I trained hard and developed my own strategy.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

I've invented a new one. I won't let anyone call me useless anymore."

"Special training? Your own fighting methods?"

Hermes asked, looking increasingly astonished.

"What kind of strategy is that?"

"You'll be shocked when you hear it. It's a long-range missile tactic."

Beck's proud response left not only Hermes but everyone else in the room looking stunned. Then, as if speaking for everyone, Latona asked», Long-range missiles? Of all people, are you planning on imitating Zead?"«Leader can fight and fire guns if he wants to, but I can't, and I have no intention of doing so», Beck replied with an almost dignified attitude.

"The targeting of the missiles on Wanzers is automatic, so as long as I keep my position away from the enemy, even I can hit my target with certainty. And all you need to keep your position away from the enemy is fast legs». Contrary to popular belief, a missile-equipped robot needs to be fast on its legs. So I used a Hybrid Wanzer made by attaching Zenith legs to a Wild Goat that our leader had left behind, and trained hard on my running.¹ --'.■■» Hmm, for now, it seems like that theory sounds good», Bosch groaned, tilting his head.

Mission 10 Iberia Megafloat

"So, did the training pay off?"

"Yes, of course."

Beck responded, finally sounding proud.

"At first, I felt like I was going to fall over every time I took a step, but I soon got used to it and was able to drive around without any problems, just like on a normal Wanzer. After all, I may look like this, but I'm a former professional soccer player, so keeping my balance and driving around nimbly is a piece of cake."«Though driving a Wanzer and driving it yourself are quite different experiences, but anyway, if you can actually drive a hybrid Wanzer, I have to admit that it's quite impressive». Latona looked at Bezukh with a very suspicious look on her face.

"But the Wild Goat couldn't be equipped with any decent missiles with the Zenith legs, right? That's why Zead left them behind."«Don't worry, once you get the hang of it, you can switch to a different combination of Hybrids and still manage to get by. Besides, if I were to put together the Hybrid myself, it would be a bit risky, but as long as Hermes can adjust it, there shouldn't be any problem no matter what combination we use», Beck replied, this time as optimistic as possible.

] High Sensor

"So, Professor Hermes, we're going to use a missile equipped with either a guidance system or advanced sensing.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

Could you please specially tailor one of your equipped hybrid Wanzers for me?"

"Who's the teacher? Who?"

Groaning in annoyance, Hermes nodded.

"Well, it can't be helped. If I refuse to let the new Wanzer be adjusted, it'll just be a clunker like a Wild Goat with Zenith legs attached, and it'll just trudge onto the battlefield. I'll leave the high-performance sensor on my Wanzer and adjust the hybrid Wanzer equipped with a guidance system and missiles."

"Oh, that's it!"

When Bezuku responded with aplomb, Latona stepped in from the side.

"So, even if that's the configuration of Beck's equipment, what exactly are you talking about here, a guidance system?"

"Ah, I didn't tell Latona about it. I developed a system that would allow transport planes to perform high-altitude bombing missions, guided by Wanzers on the ground. I had completed the design before I went to Wassau, but I didn't have time to actually assemble the equipment. So I asked the factory at HQ to assemble it while I was away."

Hermes responded calmly. Then Latona frowned and asked», So, you're planning to suddenly deploy a system that has never been used in real life?

Mission 10 Iberia Megafloat

Kai, what about you?"

"Yes, if it becomes necessary. Of course, if there is no need, we'll just take it back to HQ and test it as normal."

With that, Hermes shrugged.

"By the way, we've done computer simulations many times and confirmed that it works without any problems. Even the new link system specially made for Durandal, which is now our trump card, was only simulated before being deployed in combat in Poland, so I think it's the same thing."

"That may be true, but to be honest I'm a bit worried. After all, Beck is the guide, right? If we accidentally drop a bomb on our allies, that won't be a joke», Latona groaned, and Hermes scratched her head.

"There are safety devices built in to prevent the missiles from bombing our allies. Besides, the possibility of misguiding the missiles is not going to be reduced just because we tested it, right?"

O'N'Gor:» It's okay, there's nothing to worry about! Despite what you might think, I've never scored a suicide goal! I can always tell the difference between friend and foe!» Latona sighed deeply, looking at Bezukh, who was arrogantly making a guarantee that was not really a guarantee.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

"After all, it was the right decision to leave him behind. Even if he becomes a valuable asset, it's scary to imagine wandering around enemy territory with such a rowdy guy."« Well, if Beck was with us, we might not feel so depressed». Although it might make us angry, I added silently. Then, the radio emitted a high-pitched receiving sound, and Zead responded by pressing the receive button.

"This is Durandal."

"Allison. After speaking with the Prime Minister, we have decided to temporarily assign you to the Iberia Megafloat as a supply unit of the British Army. I will send you the unit code and other necessary information separately."

Deputy Secretary Allison spoke in a brisk tone.

"Of course, it is clearly illegal to arbitrarily incorporate members of Durandal, an organization of the E.C., into the British military, and even in light of British domestic law, it is a major overstepping of the Prime Minister's authority. But the Prime Minister has made a decision. If any problems arise, he will take full responsibility."

« Really"

For an instant, Zead looked taken aback, and then asked in a low voice», I thought they would at best turn a blind eye and tell me to do my best, but this seems like a pretty bold decision. Has Prime Minister Noland had a change of heart?»

Mission 10 Iberia Megafloat

"It seems that Joso is regretting his actions. The attack on the German base was a complete surprise attack, but the attack on the new resource area in Poland was predicted by Durandal. If he had believed in that prediction and mobilized only the forces within his authority, he says, he would never have found himself in such a quagmire», the Vice Minister said, sighing softly.

It's true that unless the Eurotunnel was breached, there was no chance that the Wanzer troops that attacked Germany could attack the British mainland. It was possible to send British troops to Poland with some political effort. If there was nothing that could be done, I could still give up, but the fact that there was something that could be done and it wasn't done is always a bitter regret for the Prime Minister.

"I see"

Zead's expression tightened as he nodded.

"I understand very well how the Prime Minister feels. Whatever the outcome, we will do our best to ensure that he has no regrets. Please convey that we are grateful for his kindness».

"I'll let them know. Now, I'll send you the data, so please prepare to receive it."

Deputy Secretary Allison added after a short pause.

Talent—Va

"I wish you all the best. That's all."

"The British Army's 105th Special Combat Resupply Squadron. They're also tasked with carrying out communications missions. Gibra..."

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

At the British-run E.C. military base in Rutal, we can change the markings on the transport planes, paint the Wanzers, and display the identification signals to British specifications, and we can also refuel them». Looking at the data sent by Undersecretary Allison, Zead gave a wry smile». The Iberia Megafloat will be bustling with preparations for the gathering of the combined fleet. **Service Chem**

"There's a good chance that a special supply team from one of the various countries' militaries is here. They'll probably be able to get in without causing too much of a fuss, and they'll be able to use the communications facilities."

"The problem is what happens after that."

Latona groaned, furrowing her brows.

"If the U.S.N. fleet were suddenly rendered unable to fight, I think it would cause uproar not only on the U.S.N. side, but also on the E.C. side. Then, there would probably be someone who would say this is the perfect opportunity to unilaterally declare war and attack. How do we stop that?"

New Continent Tonza:» That's true. If we can manipulate the information well, we may be able to hide the fact that the U.S.N. fleet has been thwarted».

Jed said, shaking his head.

"Well, we'll have to leave that to Hermes. If it comes to information warfare or electronic warfare, there's not much we can do."

"Depending on the situation, Hermes can also shut down E.C.'s systems, rendering both sides unable to fight."

Mission 10 Iberia Megafloat

"Maybe. At the very least, the Iberia Megafloat's system should be much easier to exploit than the USN fleet."

Bosch spoke in a nonchalant tone, causing both Zead and Latona to frown». I don't want to make the fact that Durandal's Father 2 is a dangerous person so publicly, but I don't think this is the time to be picky."

"That's true. Well, if we were to take down the systems of the USN fleet, that alone would be enough to make us notorious all over the world. That's why I think Hermes looked so reluctant."

With that, Latona shook her head. Hermes herself was not present, as she was busy adjusting Beck's aircraft and setting up the bombing guidance system.

And at that moment, the mobile phones of Zead, Latona, Bosch, and myself all simultaneously emitted a ringing sound in talk mode.

"Darril?"

Before I knew it, I had pressed the receive button.

"yes?"

I've brought back a pile of evidence».

Darril announced with a proud voice. I couldn't help but join in with a proud voice.

"Amazing! Did you capture a Wanzer too?"

"No... The Wanzers either self-destructed or escaped, so we couldn't capture them. We couldn't take any prisoners either».

Darril explained, lowering his voice a little.

"However, we managed to prevent the explosion of what appeared to be the control room and secure it, and obtained a considerable number of data disks. Most of the data was in the Zaftran language, which we couldn't read very well, but I think if you examine it, it will provide evidence».

"Yes. Thank you, that would be helpful."

I was a little disappointed, but I agreed. The information on a data disk whose contents are unknown varies greatly. Of course, there is a chance that it contains highly classified information, but there is also a chance that it contains no useful information at all.

But Darril's next words made me lean forward.

"Among them, there was data that looked like a map, which was in the computer in the control room when we entered. It seems to be a flight record between Venezuela, Zaftra, and Africa or Europe. Should we just send this one over the communication line?"

Mission 10 Iberia Megafloat

"Yes, I'd love that."

Excited, I answered right away. But then I suddenly realized and made the suggestion that Darril was probably waiting for more than anything.

"Well, after this communication, we will prepare to receive the data. But before that, can you tell us when and where we should send a transport plane to pick us up?"«Very well, that's right!"

As expected, Darril raised the bell and specified the date, time and location. The date was eight days from now, 9pm local time. The location was the cargo airport attached to the port of Cumana. After confirming it again, Darril asked in a slightly anxious tone.

"By the way, after you pick us up, will that plane take us wherever we want?»

"That's right. As long as it's not a place where we'll be immediately shot down by missiles if we invade, I don't think there'll be any problems. However, we'll need to refuel, so it would be helpful if you could tell us roughly where we should go in advance."

Darril thought about my response for a moment and then replied.

"Southern France. Marseille or Nice or somewhere around there. I'll think about what to do from there. For now, if I can get dropped off around there, that should be okay, right?»

"Yeah, no problem."

I replied, feeling a bit frustrated. Darril and the others were sending the Oceana to the USN and the Zafra Sphere.

I thought there was little chance that they would ask me to go to Sydney, Tokyo, or Singapore in the United States, or Hong Kong or Cape Town, which are not part of the national bloc, I would have to worry about refueling and would have to get permission to enter from the government of that country first. However, if the destination was France, those concerns would be very small, although I wouldn't say they were nonexistent.

Darril then said in a calm tone that he could see my relief.

"Don't worry. I have many friends, and I know people all over the world. So if you can just drop me off at a convenient place, I'll take care of the rest."«Okay. I'll definitely take you to the south of France. But first, make sure you don't miss the train at Cumana».

When I told him, Darril laughed in response.

"Oh, I'll be careful. By the way, Elsa, are you single?"

"Yes, that's right. So what happened?"

I asked, a little taken aback, and Darril cleared his throat.

"No, it's nothing. I'm going to send you some data that appears to be the flight record of the Zafra's military.

Mission 10 Iberia Megafloat

Talent—Va

Please prepare your message. That's all."

"Hmm, this is some strange data."

Hermes emerged from the bunk and into the cockpit, checked the data Darril had sent, and tilted his head quizzically. Beck's adjustments and the installation of the bombing guidance system had already been completed, and he had been resting in the bunk the whole time that work was being done at the Gibraltar base, such as changing the paint job and refueling, so at least from the outside, he looked as healthy as usual.

"Certainly, the data looks like a flight record, but there's no way that Zaftra's military aircraft would actually fly on routes from Venezuela to the Madeira Islands or to France, right?"

"I can't say it won't happen, but unless it's a really clever disguise, it's likely to be caught in the air defense net and get you in trouble."

Zead responded, furrowing his brows.

"Maybe it's not an actual flight record, but simulation data of a flight?"«That's possible, but if so, what kind of situation was assumed when conducting such a simulation?»

Bosch asked in a gentle tone to Hermes, who kept tilting her head to the side.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

"The mystery only deepens, but that's beside the point. Even if we objectively analyze this data, is it possible to determine that it was used by the Zaftra's military?"

"Yes, the format of the records and the units of measurement all match those used by the Zaftra's military. The notes are all in the Zafran language, too, so if you look at it honestly, there's no doubt that this is official data used by the Zaftra's military."

Hermes said, shrugging.

"However, if someone who knows the Zaftra's military well suspects that it may have been a plausible forgery, it will be difficult to dispel the suspicion."

"I see"

Bosch nodded with an understanding look.

Then Captain Robert spoke in a tense voice.

"Hey! I see smoke on the horizon. Is that the Iberia Megafloat ?"

"What did you say?"

As everyone stared nervously at the horizon, Zead immediately turned to his radio». This is the British Army's 105th Special Combat Resupply Squadron. Iberia Megafloat, please respond... This is the British Army's 105th Special Combat Resupply Squadron. Iberia Megafloat, please respond. This is the British Army's

Mission 10 Iberia Megafloat

105th Special Combat Resupply Squadron. Iberia Megafloat, respond.

There's no response."«Oh my, this is shocking! Could it be a surprise attack by the USN military? Maybe they launched a sudden, no-questions-asked airstrike with long-range cruise missiles or stealth attack aircraft or something?» Bezukh shouted, and Bosch shook his head.

"No, it would take a lot of effort to destroy the communications functions of a base the size of the Iberia Megafloat with a missile attack or air strike from outside. Cruise missiles would naturally be intercepted. However, if we launch an attack from the inside, it would be enough to blow up the communications room. Alternatively, if we knew the frequency the base uses, we could even jam communications beforehand», Bosch glared at the bitter tone of his words.

"If it was done from within the base, then rebellion or terrorism could be considered, but in this case, the most likely scenario would be sabotage by an undercover agent.

If Durandal can be disguised as a special combat supply unit at the sole discretion of the British Prime Minister, it shouldn't be too difficult for a spy from a certain country, backed by the Prime Minister of a certain country, to disguise himself in the same way and infiltrate the Iberia Megafloat."

« So, does that mean it was Blauer Nebel's doing?"

Looking at Latona who groaned, Botusch shrugged his shoulders.

"I can't say for sure. But I have a feeling that this is probably the case. In any case,

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

If you go there, you will understand whether you like it or not."

"I agree"

Latona nodded and turned her gaze forward. The black smoke billowing out from the Iberia Megafloat, E.C.'s relied-up defense base in the Atlantic, grew larger and more intense with each passing moment». There are two, no, three Wanzers on the flight deck. If we land, we'll definitely be targeted."

Captain Robert groaned, frowning, and Zead nodded immediately.

"We have no choice but to make an airborne landing, no matter how difficult it is. Fortunately, there is smoke coming out from all over the place, making anti-aircraft visibility very poor. We'll need to avoid attacks from above deck, and I'd like you to assist with the airborne landing."

"Yeah, I'll figure something out."

The captain nodded with a frown on his face, and Zead turned his gaze to Beck.

"What do you think? Do you think you can make an airborne drop with a missile-equipped heterogeneous wanzers? If you're not sure, you can stay in the transport. Don't push yourself."

"You've got to be kidding me, Leader. If the guided plane doesn't land, we won't be able to use our precious bombing equipment."

Mission 10 Iberia Megafloat

Betku said, grinning.

"Well, I may not be able to perform a graceful airborne descent like you guys, but I think I can probably make a descent without crashing the aircraft. At least in the simulation, I was able to make it look good."

"I see. In that case, I'll leave it to you."

Then, Jid looked around at us and said.

"Everyone, board your vans and prepare for airborne landing!"

"Yay!"

Beck shouted cheerfully and took off running». At this rate, he'll probably be able to make his first airborne landing without any problems», I thought, shrugging as I ran to the hangar.

"Countdown, five, four, three, two, one, descend!"

As usual, Latona took the lead and I followed her. No matter how huge the Iberia Megafloat was, it was still a structure on the sea, not on land, and the flight deck, which was the target of the airborne landing, was located quite close to the outer edge. If we made one mistake, we could seriously end up diving into the sea. And, except for some very special large aircraft, most Ventours would be scrapped if they fell into the sea.

"Countdown, five, four, three, two, one, down—"

While my vision was blocked by black smoke spewing from all sides, I flew the Wanzerr into the air. It seemed like they were firing from below, but the line of fire was quite off target. I landed on the sturdy deck with a strong impact, and instead of firing immediately, I looked around to see what was going on around me. The black smoke was not only in the sky, but also thickly near the deck, making it very hard to see. There were destroyed and burning planes and facilities everywhere, so the heat source sensor was also disrupted and unreliable. The sound sensor was also affected by the intense sounds of fire and gusts of wind, and there was the roar of an airplane in the sky, and there were irregular echoes, so I couldn't tell what was going on». But the conditions should be the same for both sides. If there was a difference....:•••Here it comes!» The computer detected the attack of the Latona plane and automatically fired the shotgun. By leaving it to link attacks, you can accurately shoot down enemy aircraft without the risk of friendly fire, no matter how poor visibility is.

Then, from the opposite side, a Wanzer appeared as if seeping out of the smoke. Its identification signal indicated that it belonged to a German army supply unit, but this solid form looked familiar. It was a Schnetzke Igel type, used as the main force by the Blauer Nebel. Even if the German army was fond of Schnetzke Wanzers, there was no way that such a high-performance and expensive Wanzer would be assigned to a supply unit.

Before I could even think about it, the Egel-type Wanzer fired its machine gun without any hesitation.

Mission 10 Iberia Megafloat

They started firing. But of course, I was also on high alert, and the torso and legs of the Ventour I was currently piloting were tattooed, with no other aircraft being able to match their agility. I immediately dodged and retaliated with my machine gun. My attack hit perfectly, but the enemy aircraft's armor was thick, so a single shot while dodging didn't do much damage.

But I didn't intend to settle for just one attack. With force that seemed to cut through the smoke, Latona's machine leapt out from the side and slammed its pile bunker into the fuselage of the Egel-type Wanzer. At the same time, I fired my shotgun and machine gun simultaneously. No matter how thick the armor was, it would be unbearable to take so many consecutive hits at once. The Egel-type Wanzer spewed black smoke from its entire body and stalled, and the pilot was ejected along with the cockpit.

Then Latona cried out sharply.

"Elsa, don't let the ejected pilot escape! In this chaotic situation, if he escapes into the base and his location becomes unknown, even a single living human being would be enough of a threat!"

"roger that!"

I drove the Wanzer and aimed the machine gun at the ejected cockpit. The pilot came out of the cockpit, saw the muzzle of the gun, and froze to a halt.

"If you run away, we will shoot you. You who are in the German military and attacked the E.C. base will be considered spies or terrorists.

As I made the announcement over the external loudspeaker, I remembered that I had been treated in a similar way not long ago by none other than the commander of the Blauer Nebel, and I felt some complicated emotions inside, but now was not the time for that.

Then, from the thickened black smoke, Latona stepped out carrying the ejected cockpit. Then, rather roughly, it dropped it down next to the cockpit I was aiming at.

"As we descended, we engaged with an enemy plane equipped with an armor-piercing cannon and destroyed its weapon, but we didn't finish it off. Anyway, we've finished it off».

"Thank you for your hard work."

I nodded in understanding, realizing that the attack by the Latona aircraft to which my aircraft first responded was aimed at an enemy equipped with armor-piercing cannon.

"I believe Captain Robert said there were three Wanzers on the flight deck, but does that mean there is another one?»

"At the very least, there's more to come. Maybe there's more coming out from inside. But I have no idea what's going on with this smoke."

Latona responded, sounding a little annoyed.

"After all, every time you destroy a Wanzer, a lot of smoke is added. Well, I can understand the situation.

Mission 10 Iberia Megafloat

The enemy probably doesn't have one either."

"Hey, sorry to keep you waiting."

Together with a startled voice, the Bosch machine emerged from the smoke.

"But there's a lot of smoke. If the Hermes plane, equipped with advanced sensors, could land, I think we'd be able to get a better grasp of the situation."

"Hermes? I really hope she doesn't trip and fall into the sea», Latona replied in an unreserved tone.

"Well, with the Iberia Megafloat in this state, the operation starring Yakko-san will likely be postponed for a while at least. Still, there's no doubt that he's an important trump card. If push comes to shove, we'll have to protect him even at the risk of our own lives."

"That's right. Once we meet up, I'll act as his bodyguard. Latona and Elsa will go ahead, and if Beck can stick close to Zead, that will be a great success."

As he said this, Bosch's plane pointed its sensors toward the two cockpits.

"Are those the pilots of the destroyed Wanzer?"

"That's right. Fortunately, or perhaps unfortunately, the enemy this time does not seem to be a suicide-destructing Wanzerr or a suicide pilot. They are probably not from Zaftra, but German. Or maybe they are a Zaftran spy."

Latona spoke bluntly, as if trying to suppress her inner thoughts.

"If he escapes and sneaks into the base, it will cause enormous trouble, but if we can keep him until this is done, he will become a valuable witness in finding out the truth. Either way, we must handle him with care." «That's right, Kanan. In that case, Hermes and I will be in charge of managing the prisoners», Bosch said, calling out through the external loudspeaker to the pilot I was pointing the machine gun at.

"You know, if you stand in this fire without any clothes on, the smoke will damage your eyes and throat. Why don't you go back into the cockpit?"

The pilot then started yelling something, but in this situation, even close by, it was impossible to hear a living human voice.

"Sorry. It's too noisy around here, so I can't hear you. I'll listen to you when the commotion calms down, so if you could just stay quiet in the cockpit until then, that would be a great help. If you still try to come out of the cockpit, we'll take that as an attempt to escape and we'll shoot you to death». As soon as he said that, the Bosch's machine gun was pointed directly at the pilot. And he made a point of speaking German.

"If you resist, I will kill you. If you remain silent, I will not kill you». At that, the pilot ran back to the cockpit and slammed the hatch shut.

Mission 10 Iberia Megafloat

Then Bosch announced in a very satisfied voice.

"Okay, good kid."

"I see. That way, we don't have to get into firing position unless the cockpit hatch opens, so that's convenient."

When Latona exclaimed in admiration, Bosch responded with a wry smile.

"Yeah. Besides, even if you tell people to come out, it's not easy for them to do so, but if they're told to stay inside, they tend to obey and stay put. Plus, it significantly reduces the chances of the prisoners getting caught in an explosion or something."

"I see. In this case, it happened that he didn't come out, so I didn't ask for his permission and brought the whole cockpit with me."

Saying this, Latona pointed the sensor towards the cockpit she had brought with her.

we will bring them back to the cockpit before bringing them back».

"Oh, that sounds good."

Up until that point, Bosch had responded in his usual nonchalant tone, but suddenly his tone changed and he spoke in a dazzling voice, as if he was talking to himself.

"But, Blauer Nebel has finally committed an act of sabotage by directly attacking an E.C. military facility.

With this, the German army has completely gone from victim to suspect."«Yes, don't be so depressed. The accomplice, or rather the main culprit, or rather the mastermind behind the conspiracy, is without a doubt my home country, Zafra».

Latona spoke bluntly, but with a sincere tone in her own way». There's no point in lamenting how things have come to this. We should at least try to restore some of our country's honor. Let's do our part, isn't that right?"

"Yes, that's right. That's right."

Bosch responded, his tone returning to a calm one.

Suddenly, to my left, there was a loud explosion.

"What?"

"Did a missile, a blast cannon, or something ignite the explosives?» Bosch had barely finished speaking when another explosion occurred to his right». Hmm. It looks like they're just firing the blast cannon blindly into the smoke without really aiming.

Wagner would never resort to such a rough tactic, but it seems the person in command here is someone else."

"Now that I think about it, Blauer Nebel has a bad personality, firing her explosive shells even if it involves her allies.

Mission 10 Iberia Megafloat

It's because of that rowdy red-haired boy."

Latona responded in a sarcastic tone.

"According to Hermes, it's the red-headed murderer Dranz. Well, whether Dranz is in command or not, as long as it's not the vampire Wagner, it wouldn't really matter."«That's true. Even if you get on a hit course like this with wild fire by chance, unless you're really careless, you can easily dodge it».

Bosch, the master of evasion, said it as if it were a matter of course. Well, it's true that even though we don't have as much leeway as Bosch, both Latona and I are piloting agile Tatou machines, and if we're careful enough, we should be able to dodge an explosive cannon that's firing aimlessly from a long distance.

And then, in the distance, I heard the sound of another explosive shell being fired. If I paid close attention, I could hear the sound of the shell being fired and predict the trajectory to some extent. It seemed closer than the first two, but it didn't seem to be on a course that would hit my aircraft .

"Huh?"

The next moment, I couldn't believe my eyes. The Bosch plane had been hit directly by the explosive shell. And if I was not mistaken, it looked like the Bosch plane had deliberately gone out of its way to hit the shell...?

"Wh-what are you doing, Bosch?"

As I stood there, stunned, Latona shouted in a voice somewhere between a yell and a scream. Bosch responded with a wry smile.

"I'm fine, nothing serious. My right arm was hit, but I can still move it somehow."«No, that's not it! Why didn't you dodge just now? Actually, it looked like you moved in the direction of the blow, did I misread it?"

Latona questioned me in a tone of a mixture of indignation and confusion. If she had made the same judgment, it seemed that I hadn't been mistaken in thinking that Bosch's machine had been the winning combination. Bosch responded in a troubled voice.

"Well, I thought that if I left it alone, the prisoners would be hit directly, so I just jumped out. Thinking about it carefully, it might have been better to also use machine gun fire to intercept them."«A direct hit on a prisoner?"

Latona roared, completely taken by surprise. Now that she thought about it, the two escape cockpits where the prisoners were holed up were located right behind Bosch's plane. If Bosch's plane hadn't been there, at least one of the two, perhaps both of them, would have been blown away by a direct hit from the explosive cannon.

"... That bastard, Dranz, maybe he didn't do it on purpose, but I still can't forgive him», Latona growled, and another explosive shell exploded in another place. It was so far away that there was no need to dodge.

Mission 10 Iberia Megafloat

As for the shots hitting the ground, it seemed like the firing intervals were getting shorter. I thought that maybe in addition to the Dranz aircraft, aircraft equipped with explosive shell cannons had been added.

"So, what should we do? I think it would be best to push the prisoners as far back as possible», asked Bosch, and Latona immediately replied.

"That's right. Bosch, what about you? If you can move your arms, please pick up the cockpit and step back as far as you can. Elsa and I will step forward».

"There's no problem with us retreating, but it looks like the enemy is sending reinforcements from within the base. Is it okay for two planes to go forward?»

Bosch asked in a concerned tone as he held the cockpit. But Latona answered firmly.

"If we don't move forward now, we'll be pushed to the edge of the flight deck, and the situation will become even more difficult. With less room to maneuver, the Hebono Betsuku won't be able to descend. We need to move forward even if it means pushing ourselves a little, and secure space behind us."

"Okay. Just be careful."

With that said, the Bosch machine somehow managed to pick up the cockpit, and with some shaky steps it dropped back, perhaps due to damage to its legs. Then Latona called out to me.

Bazooka

"Let's go, Elsa. Let's move forward while being careful of the explosive shells."

"yes"

We moved forward with careful steps. Meanwhile, several rounds of explosive shells were fired, but they all missed far.

"I wonder if that shot just now was just a fluke... Oops!"

Suddenly, an explosive shell was fired on a course that looked like it would hit my aircraft, and being on guard, I immediately dodged it. Fortunately, I managed to dodge it somehow, but because I was moving forward and closing the distance, the time between the sound of the shot and the actual bullet coming was short.

Then, from the thick smoke, an Egel-type wanzers suddenly appeared. One was equipped with a machine gun and a shield, the other with a melee weapon and a shield.

"It's out, Natsu!"

Without a moment's hesitation, the Latona machine pounces on the melee weapon-equipped machine and tries to slam its pile bunker into it, but the enemy machine skillfully defends itself using a shield. However, at the same time, the link system activates and my machine fires a shotgun. It hits squarely, and the arm equipped with the melee weapon explodes and is torn off. Meanwhile, the machine equipped with a machine gun keeps its distance and fires at the Latona machine, but the Latona machine defends itself with a shield.

Seeing that the opposing melee weapon-equipped machine had lost its weapon, the Latona machine quickly replaced it and equipped it with a machine gun.

Mission 10 Iberia Megafood

I closed the distance to the machine gun. I also headed towards the machine gun equipped machine while firing diversionary shots. However, the machine gun equipped with melee weapon, which seemed powerless now with no weapons, rammed into my machine gun with its shield as it tried to slip past.

"Wow!"

Although I narrowly managed to avoid the ramming attack, my balance was thrown off and I was unable to counterattack. Then, the enemy Wanzer rushed in again, trying to ram into me. Just as I managed to regain my balance, I quickly gauged the distance and fired my machine gun and shotgun simultaneously.

"Go!"

With a thunderous roar, the enemy Wanzerr's shield and remaining arm exploded. Just as I thought I'd won, my ship received a strong impact and fell over. While I was distracted by the enemy in front of me, I was hit directly by a long-range explosive cannon attack, whether it was intentional or just a fluke.

"Elsa!"

Machine Gun Arm

While I was hesitating, Latona, who had singlehandedly destroyed the weapon arm of the machine gun-equipped machine, turned around and shouted. I responded while quickly righting the machine.

"It's okay, there's some damage, but nothing is inoperable!" «Is that so? Then I'll finish them off, and you can retreat with the ejected cockpit.

"I'll take charge here!"

Latona yelled, but as expected, she couldn't follow her orders.

"No matter how strong you are, you can't do it alone! If you hold on, I'll stay with you! If you want to retreat, let's retreat together!"

When I shouted back, Latona hesitated, which was unusual for her. She didn't think she could hold out on her own, but on the other hand, if she backed off, the enemy would push back. How long could we hold out while coordinating with my damaged unit? It was a very difficult situation to judge.

However, the state of the battle would not wait for our decision. More explosive shells were fired, and although they missed my unit or Latona's, they did hit an enemy Wanzer that had lost both arms. The Egel-type Wanzer, which had already sustained considerable damage to its torso, was tragically rendered inoperable by our own attacks, and the pilot was ejected along with the cockpit.

We were forced to make a new decision: should we take the cockpit as a prisoner or should we ignore it for the time being? Then, two more enemy Wanzers came charging in, pushing through the thick smoke. We had no choice but to fight them, and just then, we prepared the Wanzers.

Suddenly, a missile came flying out of the smoke, hitting a new enemy, a Wanzer. The Latona immediately jumped in, stabbing one of the planes with a pile bunker, and easily destroying it. Then I

Mission 10 Iberia Megafloat

However, the other plane was brought down by machine gun fire alone.

"Zead?"

"It's not just the leader, I'm here too!"

Beck's cheerful voice answered Latona's question. Now that you mention it, there were two missiles that had just come flying. Otherwise, there was no way they could have attacked two enemies at the same time.

"Beck? Did you get down safely?"

"Of course! Otherwise you wouldn't be here!"

A hybrid Wanzer consisting of the body of a Zelt, a high-output Wanzer made by the E.C. company Sender, with the legs of a Shikeidaro, a general-purpose, highly mobile Wanzer, also made by Sender, came running towards them with a very unsteady gait.

Then Latona reprimanded him in a stern tone.

"Don't rush forward unnecessarily! If you get too close to the enemy plane, you won't be able to fire your missiles!" «Yeah, I know that! I completely understand that, but there are circumstances that require us to move forward a bit more !»

Saying this, Betsuku pointed to an unfamiliar device mounted on his back». This is a bombing guidance device specially made for Hermes. It seems the enemy is forming a tight formation, surrounding the explosive shell-equipped machine. Let's bomb them and take them all out in one fell swoop!

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

"Sorry for the delay. We weren't able to find a place where Hermes and Betuk could land safely, but somehow everyone managed to get down».

ZEAD's calm voice came through the headset.

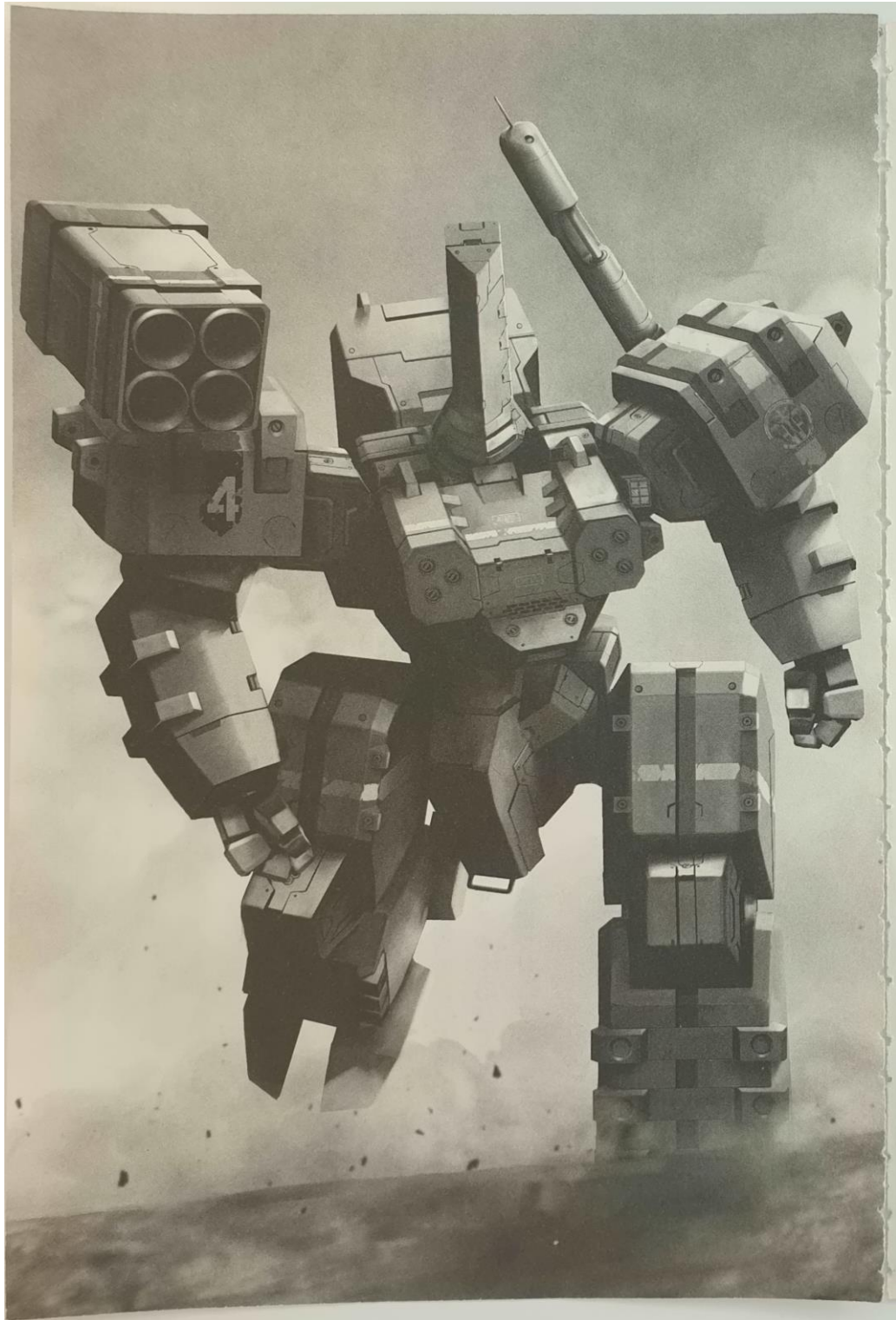
"The Hermes aircraft is equipped with advanced sensing devices that can roughly pinpoint the enemy's location, but to ensure that the bombing will hit its target, we need to send Beck's aircraft, which is equipped with a guidance system, forward to a certain extent. If the enemy advances, I will provide support with missiles, so you guys will cover Beck's aircraft as well."

"Understood. Then, I would like you to send a Hermes plane over here to capture the escaped enemy pilot as a prisoner».

Machine Gun Arms! Saying this, the Latona machine attacks the two remaining enemy Wanzers. The machine gun and arm are destroyed, and only the arm equipped with the shield remains, but the pilot of this machine does not seem to have the skill to ram the shield and the body, and the pile bunker is slammed into the fuselage, and it is easily thwarted. I then point the machine gun at the cockpit that has been ejected and is rolling around, and warn it using the external loudspeaker.

"Do not come out of the cockpit! If you do, I will take it as an attempt to flee and shoot you immediately !»

I yelled at him in a shrill voice, not an act, and he started to open the door timidly.



GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

The cockpit hatch that was about to close closed in an instant». Okay, that's fine», I muttered, running to the next cockpit to give a warning. After gathering the three cockpits with their pilots still inside together, Latona's machine brought over the cockpit of the Wanzer that had just been destroyed.

"That's everything. Is there anything missing?"

"There shouldn't be."

We exchanged a short conversation while keeping an eye out for any new enemy Wanzers charging in. For now, the attacks from the explosive shell cannon continued intermittently, but there was no sign of the Wanzers themselves advancing. The explosive shell cannon's fire also seemed hesitant, and it was only firing in the wrong direction. It seemed that the two units that had charged in earlier had been hit by missiles in an instant and destroyed, which had come as a bigger shock to the enemy than they had expected, and they seemed to be wondering what tactics they should use to respond.

And of course, the enemy's hesitation is our opportunity. Beck's machine, which had been watching the enemy through the smoke, eventually extended a long antenna from the device on its back as if ready.

"Bombardment guidance, commence!"

Beck announces in a dramatic voice, but nothing happens immediately. The actual time that passes is probably measured in seconds, maybe a minute at most, but there is a strangely tense wait.

Mission 10 Iberia Megafloat

Then suddenly, a huge explosion rang out ahead.

"Yes! All the bullets hit their targets! The enemy is completely annihilated!"

"It'll be troublesome if the bailed out pilot escapes! We'll secure him and make him prisoner!"

With that statement, the Latona machine took off, and I immediately followed suit.

"Beck! Until the Hermes arrives, no pilots will escape from these four cockpits. Please keep an eye on them!"

"Even if you say you're watching, the only weapons on my van are missiles. Do you mean, if the pilot escapes, I should shoot him with a missile?»

Beck asked in a flustered tone, to which Latona yelled.

"Nobody said you could use weapons against humans! Keep an eye on them, and if you see any signs that the hatch is about to open, just lightly hit the cockpit with your fist to scare them away! If it still tries to open, hold it down with your hand and break the hatch! Seriously, have you ever wondered why the Wanzer has arms and legs?"

"I-I got it! I got it!"

Without paying any further attention to Beck's tired answer, the Latona plane quickly advanced through the thick smoke. Then, suddenly, from the smoke, an explosive cannon was fired at the Latona plane with surprisingly accurate aim.

"What do you mean, annihilated?! We still have plenty of resistance left!» Latona narrowly dodged the attack and, yelling, charged forward, attacking the large Wanzer equipped with an explosive shell cannon that had appeared in front of her. The large Egel-type Wanzer, likely for the commander's use, swung the barrel of its explosive shell cannon like a club, trying to knock down the Latona machine that had approached at close range, but its movements were extremely slow. Even if it hadn't completely thwarted it, it still seemed to have sustained considerable damage from the bombing.

"Too slow!" flash of energy, Latona's pile bunker pierced the right arm of the large Wanzer, and at the same time my unit hit it with a linked attack of shotgun fire. Another Wanzer that seemed to be barely moving came out with its machine gun aimed, but I fired my machine gun first, and it was easily thwarted before it could do anything.

Arm Bazooka Meanwhile, the large Wanzer that had been hit by the coordinated attack had its right arm blown off and it dropped its explosive cannon, but it was not ready to give up and started hitting back with its left arm. Latona's machine made no attempt to dodge this attack, instead slamming its shield frontally to block it. Black smoke spewed from the left arm of the large Wanzer and the machine came to a halt, and just as it was doing so, a well-aimed hit from the pile bunker pierced deep into the center of the fuselage. Even though the large Egel-type Wanzer was renowned for the thickness and sturdiness of its armor, there was nothing it could do after being beaten to this extent. Black smoke spewed out all at once from the damaged areas, and the pilots

Mission 10 Iberia Megafloat

The entire pit is ejected.

"Wanzer pilots, do not come out of your cockpits! If you do, we will take that as an attempt to flee and you will be shot to death!"

The Latona used its external ammunition to emit a roar-like warning. Meanwhile, I finished off the Wanzerrs that had not yet stalled with my machine gun fire, and picked up the cockpits that had been ejected and rolled around. After all, on the bombed-out flight deck, the remains of Wanzerrs were spewing out fierce black smoke all over the place, and if a living pilot were to carelessly step outside, he would be instantly engulfed in smoke and suffocated. As far as I could see, there was not a single cockpit whose hatch had already been opened and the pilot had escaped.

"For now, it looks like we've managed to take control of the flight deck."

"Yes. But the Vampire Wagner should still be somewhere within the base. There's no way he wouldn't be here."

When Latona spoke in a stern tone.

a loud explosion different from the sounds of explosions and combustion that had been heard up until then rang out.

And the next moment, more than a dozen cruise missiles, trailing white smoke, were launched high into the air.

"Wh-what?"

"Could this have been a suicide attack?"

For a moment, Latona blurted out some horrifying words. Indeed, if Wagner had sensed the annihilation of Dranz's squadron, he might have gone so far as to slam the megafloat control missiles straight into the flight deck.

But fortunately, or rather, how should I put it, the cruise missiles changed direction at high altitude and flew off toward their designated target, although we don't know where. We are very curious as to what they are aiming for, but we no longer have the means to stop the missiles that have flown away». Wagner is probably in the cruise missile control center, but at the moment we have no idea where that is».

Latona dazzled as she spoke, half to herself.

"We also need to secure the prisoners, so for now, it seems best not to rush from here until everyone is gathered."

"That's right ."

To be honest, if I were to encounter Wagner in my current condition, there would probably be a good chance I would be killed in return, I thought silently.

MISSION 11

Madeira

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

"The first and second command rooms were completely annihilated, and the base commander and all of his main staff were killed in action. The third command room barely managed to retain its personnel and facilities, but the majority of the supplies are unusable and the base's functions have been greatly reduced."

Zead spoke in a solemn tone.

•» Meanwhile, the EC combined fleet has decided to cancel its rendezvous at the Iberia Megafloat, which is in a state of chaos, and instead temporarily assemble in the port of Lisbon, Portugal. However, opinions are still divided among the generals of each country over the treatment of German warships, and no final decision has been made. If things continue like this, it is becoming doubtful whether the EC and other fleets will be able to effectively unite and fight in the first place."«Well, it is understandable, but... the EC has ended up facing a foreign enemy in the worst possible conditions."

Bosch's tone was dazzling and bitter.

So where did the cruise missiles go?"

"The megafloat's radar system is destroyed, so we don't know much more than that it flew off to the west.

Mission 11 Madeira

However, just a few days ago, the US Navy Atlantic Fleet announced that it had received a surprise, unwarned attack from the Iberia Megafloat using cruise missiles. In response to this announcement, the US Navy government formally declared war on the E.C. In response, the E.C. Congress stated that the Iberia Megafloat was a temporary submarine of the New Continent.

"It has been occupied by an armed group believed to be rebels or terrorists, and it has been announced that the attack on the USN fleet was carried out by this armed group and has no connection to the E.C. Congress or military, but there has been no response from the USN side so far», Zead announced, and this was when Hermes groaned and let out a groan.

"Oh no. You've finally done it.

No matter how much they declare war after a surprise attack, who can be trusted in this situation? It will only make people think that the mastermind behind the terrorist attack on E.C. who manipulated Blauer Nebel is not Zaftra, but the USN.

"So where is the USN fleet heading after the declaration of war? Madeira? Or the Iberia Megafloat?"

Latona asked quickly, and Zead shook his head.

"We don't know. Currently, E.C. has no way of knowing where the USN fleet is or where it's heading. The USN fleet has a hidden satellite system, and the Iberia Megafloat's wide-area radar has been completely destroyed and is unusable. The patrol planes have also been destroyed.

So they can't even carry out forced reconnaissance.

The only aircraft available are ours, the British Army's 105th Special Combat Resupply Squadron's armed resupply aircraft.

"So that means we have no choice but to go scout?"

When Beck yelled with his eyes wide open, Zead replied in a heavy tone.

"In the end, that may be what will happen. However, for now, we must be prepared to respond to any request for support from the Megafloat security forces. Until we can confirm whether the remnants of Wagner and Blauer Nebel are still inside the Megafloat, dealing with them will be our priority."

"That's right. If the USN fleet attacks the Megafloat and we haven't taken care of Wagner yet, we'll be in big trouble».

Bosch roared, his tone filled with a sense of crisis.

Currently, we were in a transport plane that had landed on the flight deck. Since we were still officially disguised as the British Army, Zead was to handle all negotiations with the Megafloat alone, and the others had decided to stay out in the open as much as possible. In truth, even if we were to search for Wagner and the others, it was not going to be that easy to understand the complex structure of the gigantic Megafloat, and if we wandered around carelessly, there was a risk of friendly fire with the Wanzers of the Megafloat security force. Bosch and my planes were in pretty bad shape.

Mission 11 Madeira

Since the damage was so extensive that it would take time to repair, it was decided that it would be best to wait until called upon.

However, even though I knew that in theory this was fine, in this tense situation, it would take a lot of patience to just stay put and wait. Both Bosch's and my aircraft had already had all their parts replaced and were completely restored, so there was no work that needed to be done for the time being.

The transport plane's onboard communications device emitted a receiving tone. Zead immediately replied.

"This is the 10th 5th Special Combat Resupply Squadron, British Army."

"This is the third command room of the Iberia Megafloat. The security forces have reported that they have finished checking all areas of the base, but the Armed Wanzer unit that sabotaged the base and fired the cruise missiles has nowhere to be found. We have also discovered that all of the submarines moored at the base's harbor have been destroyed, except for the largest one. The largest submarine is capable of carrying nearly ten Wanzers, so we believe that the Armed Wanzer unit likely escaped in this submarine».

A young voice spoke in a slightly nervous tone.

"There is a possibility that operatives remain, so the guards will continue to be on high alert. In particular, we will take measures to ensure that the prisoners you have handed over to us are not harmed under any circumstances.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

However, it seems that support from the armed wanzers belonging to your unit will probably not be necessary. Therefore, there is another mission that we would like to ask of you from the Iberia Megafloat."«What is it?"

When Zead asked simply, the voice of a young man who seemed to be an officer on the Megafloat tried hard to explain, but in a somewhat roundabout way. Perhaps English was not his native language». Just now, a cruise missile was fired from our base at the USN Navy Atlantic Fleet, and on that pretext, the New Continent USN • declared war on the E.C. The U.S.N. fleet will probably launch an attack on either our base or Madeira Island. However, our base's radar system and its patrol aircraft have been completely destroyed, so we are in a state where we are completely unable to detect the USN• fleet even if it comes towards us.

So, I understand that this is a dangerous mission, and that it is not something that should be asked of you, who are members of the British military. Could you please use your armed supply aircraft to scout whether the USN fleet is heading to our base or Madeira Island ?

"I got it.

However, the aircraft we use are not designed for patrol or reconnaissance, and are not equipped with the sophisticated sensing equipment required for such missions.

Mission 11 Madeira

"I can't come, but circumstances are as they are, so I'll do everything I can», Zead replied in a sincere tone, and the officer on the Megafloat spoke in an honored voice». Please, I appreciate your help."

"Which direction is the U.S.N. fleet heading for, the Iberia Megafloat or Madeira ?"

Bosch asked to no one in particular, and Latona frowned in response.

"That's difficult. From a purely tactical standpoint, I think it would be best to attack the Iberia Megafloat, which is in a state of chaos. It's a military base, and it's also where they fired the cruise missiles that were the pretext for starting the war."

"Yes, from a purely tactical standpoint, that's true.

Commander Maddox will probably attack Madeira without hesitation. That will be much more appealing to the USN government and its people».

Hermes said in a bitter tone.

"And what's more, some mysterious civilian organization called the Madeira Free Independence Council is sending armed ships out on their own to accompany the USN fleet, right? At that point, I don't think the fleet commander's plan included proper battles or the capture of military bases».

we don't know whether the armed ships of the Madeira Free Independence Council are accompanying the Atlantic Fleet. They departed from different ports, and there is a considerable difference in their speed, so I think they are acting separately."

Zead pointed out calmly. Bosch then continued in a matter-of-fact tone.

"On the other hand, if there are civilian ships accompanying the USN fleet, they could make it out to be a hoax, a false report or whatever, and claim that the civilian ships were damaged by the Iberia Megafloat's cruise missiles. That would be a much more effective way to stir up public opinion in the USN in favor of war against the E.C., wouldn't it?»

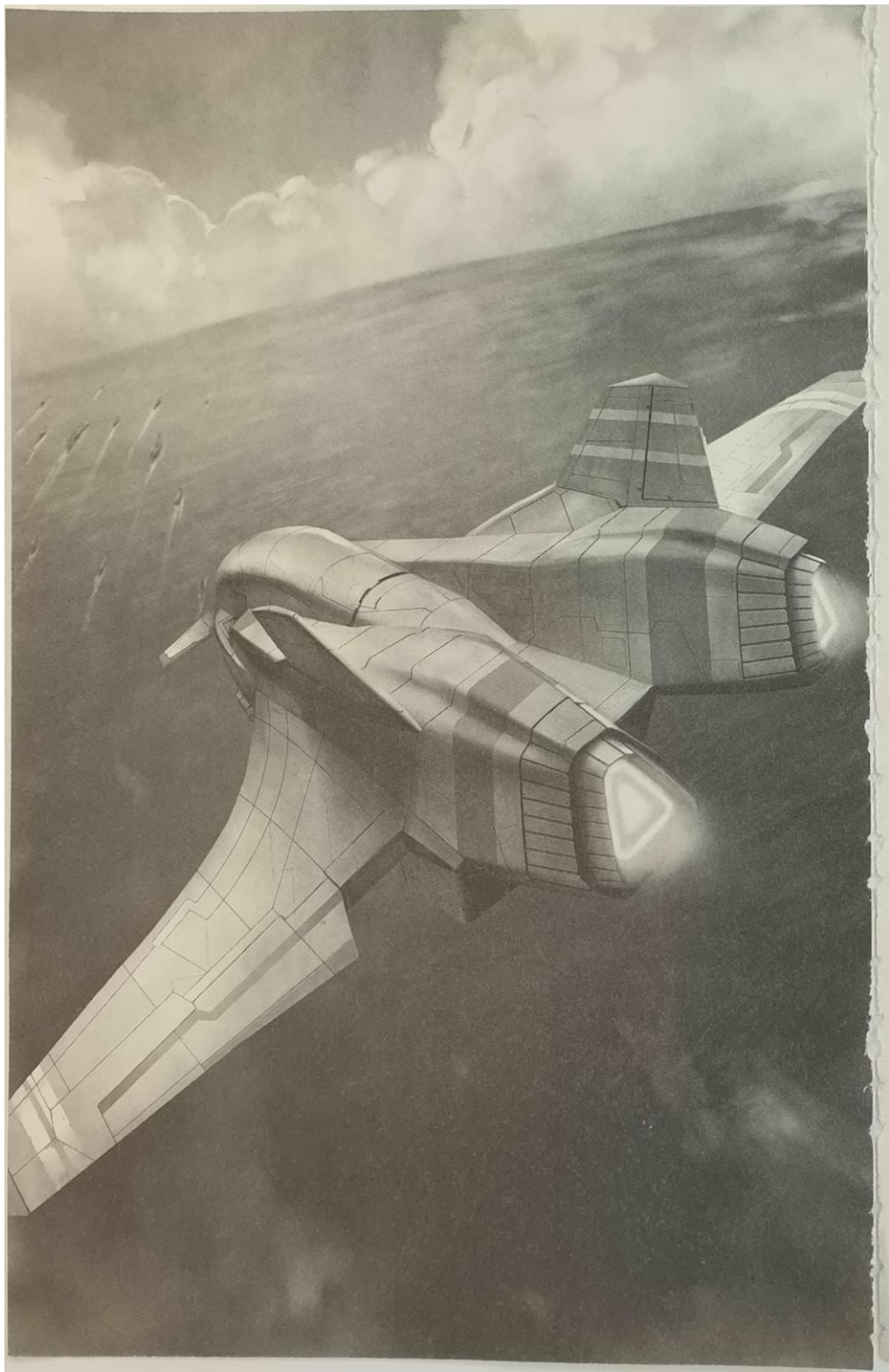
« That's true."

Still frowning, Hermes nodded.

"Even if Commander Maddox is a military man who values political appeal, he wouldn't be so crazy as to have a civilian ship accompany a fleet that has already entered a state of combat. Of course, if there were civilian ships accompanying the fleet, then there would be no point in keeping the fleet's operations secret.

But, if we do that, would it be possible to capture a military base instead?"

"In fact, I think that the more respectable a military man Fleet Commander Maddox is, the more unlikely it is for the USN fleet to capture the Iberia Megafloat». When I spoke, Latona and Hermes both looked at me with quizzical expressions.



, I think it would make a lot of sense to capture a disabled military base now».

"That's an opinion we can only say because we know that the Iberia Megafloat is truly in a disabled state, right? But from Commander Maddox's point of view, there's no guarantee that this isn't a trap. If it was a special operations unit from the USN military that disabled the military base, they might invade after seeing the results of that operation, but the ones who actually carried out the sabotage were Blauer Nebel, who are thought to be in league with the Zafra's military. I can't imagine that they are trusted by the USN military at all».

As I explained, Bosch nodded.

"I see. For the USN Fleet, since they weren't the ones who initiated it, it's still unclear what's happening on the Iberia Megafloat. If they were at a disadvantage and trying to make a desperate comeback, they could go on the offensive, knowing the risk of falling into a trap, but in that situation...

Sai—Luo Nothing Plan

"Not at all, and Commander Maddox is not the type of commander who likes risky operations. In that sense, the most reasonable choice would probably be to expedite the capture of Madeira Island, which is probably the original operational objective».

"Yes. But, despite that, if the USN fleet were to come and attack the Iberian Megafloat, I would have to make a very unpleasant assumption. In that case, Commander Maddox

Mission 11 Madeira

"There's a high possibility that he's in league with Zaftra, just like Blauer Nebel», I said, lowering my voice a little. Hermes' expression twisted as she growled». You're saying that the FSN Navy Chief is a spy for Zaftra? That's just too much... No, it's not impossible."

"Braunébel, who made a name for themselves as E.C.'s most elite Wanzerr unit, was even able to destroy the Iberia Megafloat. No matter what happens, I won't be surprised», Bosch said, shaking his head gloomily.

"However, if possible, I would like the USN Fleet Commander to act in accordance with the national interests of the USN, not ZAFTRA. Otherwise, things will just get complicated.

Well, I'm not saying you have to take E.C.'s situation into consideration, though."

"Well, for the time being, we haven't seen anything that would suggest a USN fleet. If they're heading straight for the Iberia Megafloat, they should be within range soon», Captain Robert interrupted.

Due to the camouflage, Zead said that this aircraft's reconnaissance and patrol capabilities were low, but in truth, it was equipped with equipment that could compete adequately with an average reconnaissance aircraft. Moreover, it no longer required guidance from the ground, and was even equipped with precision bombing capabilities, so it had become an all-purpose fighter aircraft in name only, a transport aircraft.

Then, after another 20 minutes or so of flying, Captain Robert made a statement.

“Apparently, they’re not coming this way. If it was a single high-speed ship or a stealth ship, it might have been possible to miss it, but if the entire fleet is coming, there’s no reason for there to be so little reaction.

Shall we try the course towards Madeira?”

"Okay, I'll leave it to you."

Zead replied immediately, and the transport plane made a large turn. Then, about an hour had passed.

"There it is"

There was no significant reaction from the Geng Xinzhi device, but Captain Robert spoke with confidence.

"It's still weak, but I've picked up military radar waves from the USN. If we get any closer, they'll probably fire ship-to-air missiles. Well, at this distance it's just at the edge of their effective range, so it's not that scary». «I see."

Zead nodded with a serious expression.

“If there was a response from an area where the fleet is unlikely to be, we would need to check it out thoroughly, but logically speaking, this response was coming from around here. There is no need to risk approaching to check.

Mission 11 Madeira

More importantly, we must quickly inform the Iberian Megafloat and the Matira Island garrison».

"Got it, let's withdraw and put some distance between us."

Captain Robert changed the course of the transport plane again, and Zead turned on the radio». This is the British Army's 105th Special Combat Resupply Squadron. While flying in operational area KU1003, we detected military radar waves believed to be from the USN• fleet emanating from the eastern sea area. Judging from the strength of the radar waves, the USN• fleet appears to be heading east or southeast from operational area KRO952. Therefore, the fleet's invasion target is presumed to be the Portuguese island of Madeira. That's all», he said unilaterally, hanging up the communication, and Zead looked around at us all». Well, with this, I think we've done everything we can do for the time being.

for the commanders of the Madeira garrison, the Iberia Megafloat, and the EC Combined Fleet to make a decision from their respective positions.

it would be impossible to shut down the systems and neutralize them, right?"«Yeah. That's impossible. If it was cyberterrorism that simply destroyed the systems, it wouldn't be impossible, but it would cause the military to lose control of the military in combat mode, so if there was even one mistake,

"There's a risk of it becoming a catastrophe. If we were to launch such an attack, it would only incite hostility», Hermes replied in a gloomy tone, and Latona sighed.

"Hermes, you should never tell anyone that you don't know about, especially not to Durandal members. If it becomes known that you were able to temporarily cause a loss of control over a USN fleet in combat mode, you will be immediately treated as a dangerous person by governments and military forces around the world, and you will be unable to move."

"Oh, I know.

In reality, I'm not the only person who can do that, but no one actually does it, and no one reveals their abilities to anyone other than a very select few. Everyone puts their own safety first, and they're all smart enough to do it.

Maybe the smartest thing for me to do would be to just ignore it and ignore it», Hermes said, shaking her head.

"No good. If you were going to prioritize self-preservation and act smart, then there was no need for you to leave the USN in the first place. I honed my skills not to protect myself, but so that I wouldn't have any regrets.

So, Zead, I can't shut down the USN fleet's systems, but I'd like to try to communicate with Commander Maddox and persuade him. Whether he trusts me or not, I don't know.

Mission 11 Madeira

"In addition, we also have physical evidence in the form of data on the Zafra's military that we received from Darril."«Hmm."

Zead looked at Hermes, eyebrows furrowed.

"But can you communicate with a USN fleet that is in combat mode?"«If the conditions are right, this communication device can do it. But you need to get pretty close to the USN fleet flagship».

Hearing Hermes' reply, Captain Robert protests before Zead.

"Hey, hey. Flagships are usually located right in the middle of a fleet. If you try to get too close, you'll be greeted with a flurry of anti-aircraft missiles."«Yeah. I also think it's impossible to get close on the open sea. But what if we waited at the fleet's destination ?"

Hermes responded with a surprisingly calm expression.

"Madeira is not very large. If we can hide somewhere on the island until the fleet approaches, we will inevitably close the distance."

does that mean that we're going to wait for the USN Wanzers to land on Madeira Island, which is going to be the battlefield?»

Latona asked with a frown, and Hermes nodded nonchalantly.

"That's the situation we're in. However, I want to avoid combat as much as possible."

"That being said, even if we wanted to avoid combat, I don't think the U.S.N. military would agree to that».

Latona sighed and groaned, then shook her head.

"I don't want to back out now either. But going head-to-head with the USN military is even more of a stretch than taking on the Zaftran army».

"So I'll avoid a head-on fight.

I don't have much data on the Zaftra's military, but I have collected a fair amount of public and private data on the USN military. I can't shut down the entire fleet's systems, but there's still a lot we can do."

Hermes explained in a matter-of-fact tone.

"That's probably impossible while we're flying, but if we're on land and not moving, I'm confident that we can fool the fleet's radar system and avoid being detected. If the Ventours come searching for us, we can make it look like an accidental malfunction, stalling their search for about half a day. These are all underhanded tactics, but if we can communicate with the flagship and buy some time until we can persuade them, we should be able to manage it».

"The problem will probably be what happens after the communication is initiated. If you communicate directly at that distance,

Mission 11 Madeira

"Our position will be known, and if we try to fly away again, there will be no way to fool the radar. Unless the fleet commander gives the order to stop the attack, we will either be hit by a ship-to-surface missile or a ship-to-air missile."

Zead pointed this out in a matter-of-fact tone, and Hermes responded with a look of distress on her face.

"Yes, that's true. However, although Sheldon Lee Maddox is a soldier, he tends to think politically. If he was attacking someone, that would be one thing, but he would probably think it would be bad for his reputation to suddenly fire a missile at someone who was trying to talk, and if he found out that the person in question was Sturgess, he would want to avoid killing them if possible. Honestly, I feel pretty bad about saying it myself, but I don't think it's likely that Commander Maddox would just kill us without asking any questions, unless we were really unlucky."«Well, that kind of unlucky situation does happen quite often on the battlefield. But if you're that worried, you can't be a soldier».

Bosch spoke in a strangely calm tone.

"Oh, that's not it. Durandal isn't in the military, and we weren't soldiers either. But wait, does that mean we're the British Army's 105th Special Combat Resupply Squadron?"«In any case, we only have two choices. Go to the battlefield or not."

Zead stated firmly.

"To put it bluntly, the only ones who would have any reason to go to the battlefield are the Hermes, Captain Robert who flies the transport plane, and the flight staff. Even if the others, including myself, were to accompany us, there are currently no plans for us to do anything. The only time we'll have a wanzers with the USN forces is if the worst really happens, and at that time, having one or two extra pilots won't mean much.

"So, we won't force anyone to participate. If anyone wants to get off, we'll go back to the Iberia Megafloat and let them off. Robert, you flight staff, if you feel like you can't handle it, feel free to get off. Hermes and I will be able to get the transport flying somehow."

"So, Zead, you're going, right?» Captain Robert asked, and Zead nodded with a wry smile.

"Yes, I intend to go. However, you guys have no obligation to associate with the Grim Reaper."«Yes, that may be the case, but it would be a shame to hand this machine over to you amateurs. I've finally gotten a grasp on its performance after modification, and it's only just starting to become more user-friendly."

Captain Roberts responds matter-of-factly:

"You're free to go wherever you want, but I'll be piloting this plane. I won't let you complain."

"Okay. I'll look after you."

Mission 11 Madeira

"S-Saying that, J-d looked around at us.

"What about you guys?"

"Whatever, it's too late now. If I'm going to get off here, I'll get off when I go to Wassau."

Latona answered immediately, and Bosch and I nodded in agreement.

"How stupid of you to get off when Hermes and Zead are going."

"Yes, even if you tell me not to come, I'll go."

And Betku shouts loudly too.

"There's no need to ask! I'm a full-fledged member of Durandal after all ! I won't be treated any differently ever again!»

"Was found was found"

"Well, I guess that's what I thought», Zead said as he nodded again.

"Well, there's no need to return to the Iberia Megafloat. We'll head straight for Madeira while avoiding the USN fleet. I'm counting on you, Robert».

"With the Iberia Megafloat not functioning, the E.C. Combined Fleet stuck in Lisbon, and no support coming from anywhere, there was no way to stop the USN forces from landing, no matter how hard we tried.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

it would be extremely annoying if they just withdraw all their forces and hand over Madeira to the USN without resistance».

As was our custom, when we contacted them claiming to be the British Army's 105th Special Combat Resupply Squadron requesting permission to land, the Portuguese general commanding the Madeira garrison responded in an open manner:

"So currently, the rest of the garrison forces are in the process of withdrawing, leaving only the volunteers for the Wanzer team behind. By the time the USN fleet and landing forces arrive, the only ones left on the island will be the stubborn Wanzer pilots."«Are you staying behind as well, Your Excellency?"

When Zead asked, the elderly commander of the defense force burst out in loud laughter.

"Oh, I had anticipated something like this happening, so it was worth taking all the Wanzer piloting training I could get. Well, to be honest, I'm at my limit just trying to operate it."«Understood. We have received special orders from our home country, so we will not be under your command, but we will provide as much support as we can.

Therefore, due to special circumstances, I would like to land at a location that is not a regular military airport. Would you be able to give me permission?"

"Well, I don't mind."

Mission 11 Madeira

The Commander responded quite casually.

"You suppressed the Wanzer forces conducting sabotage on the Iberia Megafloat, and you conducted a risky patrol to locate the USN fleet. Whatever your true identity, you are a remarkable unit. I won't be so stingy as to say I won't give you permission unless I hear what your special mission is, and who gave you the order».

« Thank you for your time"

The Commander replied with a pleasant look on his face to Zead, who sounded genuinely embarrassed.

"Well then, I wish you all the best, Elger."

Talent—Va

"I wish you the best of luck, Your Excellency. That's all."

Hanging up the communication, Zead told Captain Robert.

"For now, we have permission to land. Please choose a location that is as likely to be in a radar blind spot as possible and land there».

"roger that"

The captain nodded and asked Zead in the same tone.

"It seems like the old commander has noticed our true identity."

"Yes. Unusually for an officer of his age, he has an interest in Ventour tactics and was somewhat involved in the turmoil surrounding the establishment of Durandal. It's no surprise that he remembers me."

Zead responded with a wry smile.

"It seems that His Excellency the Commander is planning to pilot a Wanzer into battle himself, which may actually ensure his safety. There's no way the USN regular forces would shoot a Wanzer pilot who escapes after his machine is destroyed."«Yes, I hope so», Latona growled in a brusque tone.

"In the end, the USN has declared war on E.C. It seems that there is no way to stop the Madeira landing operation, but it would be better if casualties were kept to a minimum if possible."«In that sense, even if it's just the Ventur unit, it's not really desirable for the outnumbered defending side to stubbornly decide to hold out. However, I understand all too well the determination or spirit of the defending forces, who decided that they would not let themselves not put up a fight to the end, even if they had no chance of winning». Bosch's tone was heartfelt, and it made Bosch dazzle.

"So, what exactly do you plan to do to support the defense forces?"«Actually, I haven't thought of anything specific. I just said it because I couldn't just sit back and watch».

With that said, Zead shrugged his shoulders.

If the realization of a persuasive operation is the top priority, it may be right to remain silent.

Mission 11 Madeira

"I don't think there's much point in prioritizing righteousness after doing something so reckless. Anyway, I'm going to go out wherever I want, fire missiles wherever I want, and support the defense forces wherever I want."

"In that case, we can just do what we like. It may be an insensitive thing to say, but going head-to-head with the USN Wanzers, who claim to be the strongest in the world, is likely to be a very useful tactical experience».

Bosch said with a grin, and Hermes spoke in a matter-of-fact tone». I'll go as well. I want to test out how effective the device that shuts down the systems of USN military Wanzers actually is. I can't say it too loudly, but this is a golden opportunity."«Oh, I'll leave the task of testing the device to me. It'll be dangerous if Hermes isn't equipped with a high-performance sensor, right?» Beck offered, seizing the opportunity.

"In this situation, there's no way we can send a transport plane to bomb the USN forces from high altitude. If we tried to do something like that, we'd be targeted immediately with ship-to-air missiles. In that case, there's no point in me carrying the bombing guidance system. I think the rational response would be to switch to a Wanzer system down device».

«I see, that's true. Then let's change the equipment on Beck's plane."

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

As Hermes responded, Latona looked at me and sighed exaggeratedly». My goodness, every single one of them is thinking they want to have a match, or that this is a perfect opportunity to test out their devices, or that it's a mock battle. No matter how you look at it, they're underestimating the world-famous USN military."«That's right. If we leave people with such a naive view running wild, who knows what will happen. We'll go along with it and make sure we keep things tight», I told Latona, agreeing. She nodded with a small smile». In the end, everyone is in the same boat when it comes to Durandal, huh?"

Amazing New Continent» As expected, or rather, what can I say... It's incredible, the USN• military's concentrated wave attack with large quantities of material», Bosch groaned, unable to tell if he was impressed or astonished». In short, it's an attack that relies on brute force, but the power is on an incomparable level. In this case, and I'm only talking about local battles, there's no consideration of tactics or anything like that."«Yes. The problem is where and against whom to wage this local battle that concentrates power. That's a question of politics, not tactics», Zead replied in a serious tone.

, New Continent

The USN fleet, arriving off the coast of Madeira, first launched a volley of cruise missiles and B-type land-to-surface missiles.

Mission 11 Madeira

The attack struck a blow to the coastal defenses, followed by helicopter troops dropping assault-type Wanzers in the air. The airborne invasion threw the defenses into disarray, making it impossible to concentrate attacks, and the assault landing craft troops rushed into the coast en masse, deploying long-range attack Wanzers and taking control with overwhelming firepower. This was a textbook assault landing operation. The defending forces fought well despite being outnumbered, shooting down helicopters before they could be detached from the airborne drop, and thwarting six assault-type Wanzers at once, but that alone was not enough to turn the tide of the battle. In an airborne operation carried out by the E.C. armies, if six Wanzers were rendered powerless without being able to do anything, it would be an immediate failure at that point, but in the Madeira landing operation, at a glance, over a hundred Wanzers were airdropped from helicopters, and twice as many Wanzers jumped out of the assault landing craft. This is neither a metaphor nor an exaggeration; it really made me realize that the USN military's military power is on a whole different level.

If we were to be swamped by that many Wanzers, as Bosch had said, there would be no point in tactics. The defending Wanzers were fighting back and retreating, and we tried various forms of support, such as firing missiles, launching diversionary attacks, and even attempting partial system-shutdown attacks, but even if we managed to thwart the Wanzers in front of us, replacement forces would immediately arrive from the rear. It was no more than a temporary solution.

"Well, it looks like the subjugation is about to be complete, and the fleet may be approaching Madeira Island."

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

Dodging the advancing USN military Wanzer forces, Zead separated from the garrison and circled around the mountain, dazzled.

"Well then, shall we return to the transport plane?"

"That's right. We've collected plenty of data."

Having said that, Hermes continued in a low voice.

"It would be easy if humans could act according to rules, according to data, like computers, but that's not how it works, after all."

"Isn't that obvious?"

Latona responded in a slightly angry tone.

"You know that if you communicate with Commander Maddox with that intention, instead of persuading him, you'll either anger him and have him turn you away, or you'll be scorned and treated appropriately."«But, you know, debates between politicians are a kind of game. Maddox,
rule

I think it would be effective to speak to him while gauging what rules Commander Kuss follows», Bosch said, and Hermes glared at him as if talking to herself.

"The data is all there. Now we just have to try it out for ourselves."

We then returned to the transport and Hermes began adjusting the communications system.

"Okay, now we should be able to interrupt the flagship's communications.

Mission 11 Madeira

Glancing at the computer display screen connected to the communicator, Hermes glared slightly and picked up the communicator's microphone.

"This is Hermes Sturgess, an employee of the E.C. Land Tactical Research Institute, Durandal. I have something urgent to convey to Vice Admiral Maddox, commander of the USN Atlantic Fleet, so I am making this call, although it is an irregular arrangement. I would like to put you through to the Vice Admiral."

"An employee of the E.C. Research Institute? How could someone like that have interrupted this communication?» A panicked voice came from a man who sounded like he was the radio operator for the US.N• fleet flagship». What are you planning to do? Is this some kind of cyberterrorism using communication waves?"«Please stay calm. I have no intention of committing any destructive acts against the USN• fleet. However, there is something I would like to convey to His Excellency the Fleet Commander». Hermes persistently called out in a polite tone, as if he was a completely different person than usual.

"I don't know if you'll trust me with this, but the USN Secretary of State is my uncle. Although I work for the E.C. agency, my nationality is USN•. I have no intention of doing anything to harm my country."« Well said, coming from the man who was planning to shut down the U-S-N• fleet», Latona whispered to me.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

However, at that moment, it seemed as if Hermes's call had worked, as the person on the other end of the line changed, and a heavy, calm male voice came from the radio.

"Maddox. You're Hermes, nephew of Secretary Sturges, aren't you?"

"Yes, it is"

Hermes answered in a tense voice, and Commander Maddox responded calmly.

"Well, I have heard many things about you from the Secretary of State. Some of them are sympathetic, some are surprising, some are unbelievable."

"Thank you for your time"

"Uncle, what on earth did you talk about?» Hermes asked, looking extremely sour. Then Commander Maddox asked him bluntly.

"So, what's the story you want to tell me?"

"Durandal, the E.C. land tactics research institute to which I belong, has received some interesting information from Venezuela. A unit using wanzers identical to the unit that destroyed the German military base and the new resource areas in Poland has appeared in Venezuela, and is supporting the governor of a state calling for independence, causing a hard time for the USN military.

And after analyzing the information sent from Venezuela, it seems highly likely that they are a special operations unit of the Zaftra's military."

Mission 11 Madeira

Hermes spoke to Commander Maddox in an intentionally subdued tone.

"In other words, the Zaftra's military has been sabotaging and weakening E.C., leading the USN• military and government to believe that now is the perfect opportunity to seize Madeira Island from E.C. However, at the same time, they are sending elite soldiers to Venezuela, plotting to make it independent from the USN• and turn it into their puppet. Durandal has determined that this incident is a plot by Zaftra to seize Venezuela».

"Hmm, so?"

Commander Maddox replied lightly without appearing to be upset. Hermes was at a loss for words for a moment, but quickly continued in a subdued tone.

"Should Madeira belong as an autonomous territory to Portugal, a member of the E.C. member state, or should it become independent and belong to the USN? I will not make that judgment here. However, if, by any chance, we were to lose Venezuela, I believe that even if we gained ten Madeiras, it would be a loss that the USN could never compensate for. I think that the Atlantic Fleet should devote its forces to defending Venezuela rather than seizing Madeira». «That is not for you to judge, and for that matter, it is not for me to judge», Commander Maddox replied calmly.

"Our government will decide whether to send the Atlantic Fleet to Madeira or Venezuela.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

"I am here by order of the Government. I cannot leave Madeira of my own accord unless new orders are given to move the fleet to Venezuela or some other place».

".••••That's true."

Bosch glared slightly.

And it seems Hermes has decided to completely change his tactics.

"Understood. I will send you the information that Durandal has obtained from Venezuela. I would like the USN government to review this and then decide where to send the Atlantic Fleet».

"Well, we'd be happy to receive any information we could, but there's one problem», Commander Maddox pointed out calmly.

have heard that you have advanced skills, for better or worse, when it comes to handling computers and networks. We have no way of knowing whether the information you claim to provide is actually sent from Venezuela, whether it is something you have fabricated, or whether it is designed to cause serious harm to the recipient."

"That's certainly true, but the latest information on the situation in Venezuela must be coming to the USN and the government through the expeditionary forces. If we compare that information with reliable information, I, who have not been there, can say that

Mission 11 Madeira

No matter how much you try to fabricate plausible information at a desk, it will inevitably be exposed.

On the other hand, if the data is harmful , then yes, your fleet should already know the location of this communication, so if they decide that I have betrayed my country, they can immediately launch a ship-to-surface missile or whatever they want. If they don't try to confirm the information they receive with their fleet, but send it to my government in a compressed form, there will be no damage to the fleet, so I think they can attack at any time."

Hermes replied in an equally calm voice, and Commander Maddox let out a soft chuckle.

"Indeed, that is true. I cannot decide yet whether you are trying to give us useful information, or pull a grand hoax. Or perhaps both.

However, there is no doubt that you are risking your life. It would be unbearable to reject someone who is approaching you so earnestly, citing a vague sense of danger. Actually, I'm starting to think that it's more like cowardice.

Please use this line to send me the information. I will forward it to your government under my responsibility."

"thank you"

With that said, Hermes quickly gathered up the data before the other person changed their mind.

Start sending.

"But Commander Maddox, how should I put it, is a much bigger man than I expected», Hermes replied with a bit of annoyance, as Jed glared at him.

"Yeah, that was way better than I'd imagined. Far from being persuasive, it felt like I was completely playing the puppet on his hand."

"Well, his opponent is the man in charge of the world-famous USN Navy, and is literally a big shot who has seen it all. Even if Hermes is a genius, it's probably a decade too early for him to have a proper fight», Latona commented bluntly.

"But our risk-of-life attitude was appreciated, and the negotiations were successful in the end, so isn't it a good thing ?"

"Telling them to just shoot if you think they've betrayed me was just me being brazen, but soldiers really do love that sort of thing», Hermes growled with a complicated expression, and then a receiving sound rang out from the comm.

"This is Maddox. Is Hermes Sturgess there?"«This is Hermes. Have you received the results of the intelligence analysis from your government?» Hermes responded in a somewhat stiff tone, to which Commander Maddox replied calmly.

"No, that's not yet. However, our fleet has a large submarine tender and a helicopter of unknown affiliation,

Mission 11 Madeira

An airborne Wanzer unit mounted on a has launched a surprise attack. The enemy numbers are small, so I think we will be able to repel them without any problems, but this line will be unavailable until the situation calms down. I advise you to remain calm and not move from your current location until the line is restored.

"Commander Maddox! That surprise attack force was dispatched from Venezuela by the Zafra's military to hold back the Atlantic Fleet ! The data you sent me earlier listed a flight route from Venezuela to Madeira Island, and I was wondering what that was all about. I see, that's what it was!"

Hermes raised her voice, and Commander Maddox chuckled lightly.

"I see. Officially, I forwarded the data you sent me without looking at it, so I can't say anything about that. But perhaps this surprise attack unit is there to back up your information.

In any case, after completing the Madeira Island occupation, they may have thought that the Atlantic Fleet was off guard, but they are really making a fool of us.

Talent

I will use it to fight back, so please don't get in my way. That's all."

With that, Commander Maddox hung up the communication.

« Yes, but what should we do?"

"We have no choice but to stay quiet here as we were told.

Commander Maddox has made us careless in our defense.

"It doesn't seem like it's possible, and if we act carelessly, it will only disrupt the USN fleet», Hermes asked, to which Zead replied in a tone that said there was no choice. Then Bosch tilted his head and glared.

was intended as a diversionary attack on the U.S.N. fleet.

Was it a plan to launch a diversionary attack somewhere in case E.C. gained the upper hand?»

最終決戦

Strike Battle

Final Battle

MISSION 12

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

The USN• government's declaration of war against E.C.• was withdrawn, the USN• fleet shifted to Venezuela, and the garrison commander and Wanzer pilots who had been taken prisoner were released.

New Continent

However, Madeira itself remains occupied by USN forces."

Briefing Room

I returned to the central control room of Durandal HQ after a long time. Hermes was looking at the monitor with an unsatisfied expression.

"I feel like I've been manipulated by Commander Maddox. If we don't handle this properly, it could have a major negative impact on the future."

base of the Madeira Free and Independent Congress, which instigated the invasion,

There are also reports that the USN government has announced that it will conduct a thorough investigation into the board.

"I look forward to your efforts and a comeback from the moderate faction of the USN and government, led by your uncle», Zead replied in a calm tone.

•New Continent

"For the time being, the risk of war escalating between the USN• and E.C.• has been reduced. I think that alone is a major achievement."

"So, how did the Venezuela situation go?"

Mission 12 final battle

Hermes responded to Bosch's question with a slight shrug.

"Something strange is happening. According to the latest information, a local guerilla or political organization called Just Venezuela has captured the state governor and forced him to declare a change of government. This organization appears to have retracted the policy of independence from the USN that the previous governor had put forward, but it does not appear to be cooperating with the USN military, and the reports are giving very mixed reviews. Incidentally, there is no information at all about any unit that resembles the Zafra's military."

"Maybe the people Darril was talking about working together with were that Fair Venezuela."

Latona asked as I glared.

wasn't the transport plane sent by Durandal to evacuate the country supposed to arrive in Venezuela today?»

"Yes, it's nine pm local time, so it'll be a while. If the transport plane returns on schedule after picking up Darril and the others, we might be able to get some more data on the Zafra's military in Venezuela."

Hermes frowned and glared at my response.

"We probably don't need this data anymore, but the USN military will want it».

"How you use it is up to you."

As Latona spoke to Hermes, the operator suddenly uttered a surprised voice», Father 1, we have a call from the British Prime Minister. Or rather, it appears that he has arrived above HQ in his special plane !»

"Pass it this way."

Zead responded in a calm tone.

"You have played an extremely important role in this incident. As the Prime Minister of the UK, as a leader of an EC member state, and as an individual who desires peace, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude», said British Prime Minister Lionel Noland in a rather passionate tone as he stepped off his private jet and appeared before us. I believe his sincerity and enthusiasm are genuine, but to be honest, what made the biggest impression on me was the slightly embarrassed smile of Under-Secretary Allison, who was accompanying the Prime Minister.

"Thank you very much for your generous support», Zead replied politely, then looked at Prime Minister Noland and asked carefully», By the way, is there any special reason that you have come all the way here today?»

"Yes. In fact, I have dispatched a special forces unit to Kursk in the Zaftra territory, and the Zaftran army has established a pipeline.

Mission 12 , Strike Battle

final battle

"I want to obtain evidence that an armed Wanzer unit has been sent into E.C. territory through the Nazis», Prime Minister Noland stated decisively and with a straight face.

"The data you obtained from your Venezuelan collaborators has made it clear that Zaftra was plotting against the USN. However, there is currently no definitive proof that the Wanzer units that carried out sabotage within E.C. territory, resulting in many casualties, were dispatched from Zaftra. The testimony of the Blauer Nebel pilots captured on the Iberia Megafloat also insists that they were simply following the orders of their superiors, so Zaftra's involvement cannot be proven. Furthermore, both their superiors, Brigadier General Gleaser and Major Wagner, are still missing. Given the current situation, it may be possible to hold Germany responsible, but we cannot go any further than that for the time being.

However, it is absolutely unacceptable to leave ZAFTRA's responsibility unclear. In the future, when building international relations with the USN•, ZAFTRA, or O.C.U., if it is thought that the E.C. nations have neither the ability nor the courage to identify the party that attacked them, it will become a factor that invites a second or third tragedy."

"So, the Kursk Raid?"

Zead groaned with a somewhat complicated expression.

it could become the case that Britain, or rather E.C., will start a war against Zaftra next».

"That's true, but we have no choice but to do this skillfully. We plan to send in the latest stealth airborne transport aircraft and the finest members of the First Airborne Division, but if possible, I would like you all to participate in this operation as well».

We all looked at each other when the Prime Minister made his remarks.

"Participating in an operation... Is it okay for us to take part in a British military operation?» I asked timidly, and Prime Minister Noland replied curtly.

"Of course there are problems. But they're nothing compared to the sudden creation of the British Army's 105th Special Combat Resupply Squadron. It just means that a few personnel and wanzers not on the official roster of the First Airborne Corps will be added."

"Understood. I'll participate. Since I've been involved this far, I want to see it through to the end», said Zead, looking around at us.

"What about you guys? I won't force you though."

"Of course I'll participate."

know it can't be helped, since I'm in front of the Prime Minister, but it's rude of me to even ask», Latona replied, dazzled, and they all nodded in unison. The Prime Minister then smiled with satisfaction». Thank you. I'm truly grateful."

But at that moment, I did not miss the slight movement of Deputy Alison's lips.^I did not let her out the door, but she dazzled a little.

Mission 12 final battle

"It's obvious that having the First Airborne Forces and Durandal operate together would cause trouble for both of them, but the Prime Minister's sudden impulse is still troubling."

"It's been a while, Zead Elger."

Colonel Gerald Telford, commander of the First Airborne Corps, gave a slightly sarcastic smile and shook Zead's hand.

"I'm glad to see you're doing well. The last time I saw you, you seemed exhausted from all the paperwork, so why don't you just go ahead and return to the military?»

"No, not at all. If I had remained in the British Special Forces I would never have been able to assemble this group of guys. I am very proud of them."

Zead stated decisively, but then quickly laughed and continued.

"That being said, it is true that some of our personnel are somewhat lacking in the airborne landing skills to accompany the demon's First Airborne Corps. We can't begin practical training now, but does this transport plane have the simulation of hell, a specialty of the First Airborne Corps?"«Of course. If you'd like to use it, I'd be happy to lend it to you."

Colonel Telford nodded with a grin, and Zead turned around and announced.

"Hermes, Beck, you two will be following the First Airborne Division's parachute simulation until you reach your destination.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

If you don't clear the required points, you won't be allowed to participate in the operation."«What? Now is the time ."

Hermes started to protest, but Zead cut her off sternly.

"I have seen your descent skills on the Iberian Megafloat. If it were a mission conducted by ourselves, we could adjust the operation based on your skills, but since we are conducting joint operations with other units, that is not possible."

"I understand. Then I won't descend, and I'll wait in the transport plane. I plan to adjust the system down device that we tested on Madeira Island to suit the Zafra's military Wanzers based on the data I received from Darril, so I don't have time to do an airborne landing simulation», Hermes replied, looking a little annoyed.

I think it would be more operationally beneficial to have the system down device available than to just train our airborne skills, am I right?»

"That's right. Hermes, please concentrate on your work."

After stating that as if it were the most obvious thing, Zead looked at Beck.

"And Beck, if you don't pass the airborne drop simulation, I'll ride in your wanzers, which is equipped with a system down device.

Okay?"«Yeah, sure. I can't say that's bad.

Mission 12 , Strike Battle

final battle

But, since it's come to this, I'll do whatever it takes to clear this hellish simulation and take part in the operation!"

Beck shouted, almost in desperation». Well, if you could improve your skills just by willpower, it wouldn't be that hard», Latona whispered.

And I made an offer to Zead.

"Um, may I use the airborne drop simulation too? I'm not particularly good at airborne drops myself, so I thought it would be helpful."«Well, with your skill I shouldn't have any problems, but it wouldn't hurt to give it a try», Zead said, telling the group.

"Everyone, board the wanzers. Transfer them to the First Airborne Forces' transport plane immediately."«How rude. Zead has completely reverted to his military attitude», Hermes muttered, in a low voice but loud enough for me to hear. Then Latona responded in a merciless tone.

"Well, it can't be helped since we're operating together with the military. If you have a problem with it, you can only take it up with Prime Minister Noland, who planned the joint operation."

"Yes, it has long been the fate of soldiers to be manipulated by politicians."

Bosch agreed nonchalantly.

"And if you don't want to be manipulated, you'll have to be the one doing the manipulating."

"∴ That's the only thing I can't do."

Hermes groaned, with a very sour look on her face.

"Countdown, three, two, one, descend!"

Following the countdown, which is two minutes shorter than usual and unique to airborne forces, I jumped out of the transport plane with force. Compared to previous airborne drops, it felt extremely rushed, but after experiencing the simulation of hell, I realized that the pilot of the transport plane was actually holding me back.

Colonel Telford and the rest of the First Airborne Forces had already landed, and we were to follow behind, Latona, myself, Bosch, and Zead. Unfortunately, Beck ended up failing the simulation and was not allowed to participate in the operation.

"But maybe it was a good decision that I couldn't participate."

I felt dizzy as I watched the flashes of what seemed to be gunfire flashing from the ground in the darkness. In order to make the most of the stealth performance of the transport planes, the raid on Kursk was carried out late at night when there was no moon, which makes the landing difficult. Moreover, Colonel Telford said with a straight face that if it had rained, it would have been perfect. The paratroopers' senses were similar to those of civilians like Hermes and Betsk.

Mission 12 final battle

is quite different from not only Majin, but also from the Wanzer pilots in our military». Eed once said that there was a special unit in the UK that would rather commit suicide than be captured. Perhaps that unit was none other than the First Airborne Forces». In the very short time between taking off from the transport plane and landing, I had some pretty scary thoughts. What if the First Airborne Forces, like the Zafra special forces, shot the pilots of the Wanzers they had destroyed to avoid leaving any witnesses? Or what if they forced their injured or captured comrades to commit suicide? It was not an impossible fantasy». Well, if that were to happen, that would be a matter of when. But maybe Zead didn't let Hermes and Beck participate just because of their parachute skills». Hoping that such a situation would not come to pass, I checked my surroundings as I landed, dazzled. The sound of machine gun fire could be heard quite some distance away, indicating that some fairly intense fighting was taking place, but the area around where I had landed was completely quiet.

"The Kursk pipeline station is this way."

After confirming my direction, I began to move. The purpose of this operation was not to defeat or annihilate the enemy. All I needed was to obtain operational data that showed an armed Wanzer unit being sent from Kursk to Wassau via pipeline, and then withdrawn.

"The First Airborne Corps seems to be trying to secure the airfield. Indeed, the transport planes were unable to land.

If we do that, we won't be able to retreat. It's a necessary task, but I don't think there's any need for me to take the trouble to make a detour and join them there».

While checking the location and direction of the place where the battle is taking place, I drive the wanzer towards the pipeline station. I'm grateful that I don't encounter any enemies, but I'm troubled that I can't meet up with my allies. Latona and Bosch, who landed before and after me, can't be that far away, but since we're operating undercover, we've turned off our identification signals, so we can't confirm each other's positions. On the other hand, I don't want to attract attention by scattering communication waves, when it seems the enemy hasn't noticed us. In the end, I decided to let things take their course and let the wanzer proceed, but I ended up reaching the Kursk pipeline station without encountering either enemies or allies.

"Now, this is a problem."

With the Wanzer facing me in front of the main entrance of the pipeline control facility, which was partially lit, I found myself lost in thought. In order to secure the data, I would have to get out of the Wanzer and enter the building, but doing so would naturally leave the remaining Wanzer completely vulnerable.

Then, a Wanzer appeared from the right of the building. For a moment, I braced myself, but then I realized that the silhouette was a slim, agile-looking tattoo that couldn't possibly be that of a Zafra's military Wanzer.

Mission 12 ,Stobat final battle

and let their guard down.

"Latona?"

"Ah, Elsa. The truth is, I made a mistake in landing and almost got stuck in a swamp. Of all people, I know the terrain around here well, so if I made a mistake like that, I'd be the laughing stock of my life. I managed to get out without calling for help and desperately tried, but, man, I'm in trouble», Latona said with a wry smile, and indeed, the legs and parts of the shield of her machine were covered in mud.

"What about the others?"

"I haven't seen anyone since we landed. I was lucky enough to come this far without stepping into the swamp, but Bosch and Zead might have gotten caught out. It seems the First Airborne Forces are fighting at the airfield."

Latona sounded confused by my response.

"So it'll just be the two of us. Well, one of us will have to get out of the Wanzer and go get the data, but to be honest, I'm not very good with computers. However, the signs inside the building are probably written in Zaftra, so I guess I have a slight advantage in that respect."«I'm not as good with computers as Hermes or Bosch. I think you'll probably be better at finding the data than me. By the way, the signs inside the building are probably only in Zaftra, so

If so, I'm totally helpless."

Saying this, I sighed a little deliberately, and Latona laughed softly». I think there's probably English translation too, but it'd be tragic if there wasn't. Okay, I'm not very confident that I'll be able to get the correct data, but I'll go. If Bosch arrives before I come back, tell him to come and support us."«Okay, I understand. I'll secure this place, so please leave it to us». When I replied, Latona got out of the Wanzer and went into the building by herself. About fifteen minutes had passed since then, huh?

"This is Zead. Is that Latona or Elsa in front of the control building?"«It's Elsa. Latona has left the Wanzer and entered the building to obtain the operational data».

"I see. The truth is, the Bosch machine accidentally got stuck in the mud, but my machine is not stable enough to pull it out. If I'm not careful, I might get pulled in too."

Along with the confused voice of Zead, a hybrid Wanzerr made of the body of a Sender connected to the legs of a Cicada U, originally used by Betsuk, appears.

"I'll secure this place, so can you go and help the Bosch? The mud doesn't seem deep enough for the Wanzer to sink completely, but if he tries to get out on his own, he might get hurt.

Mission 12 final battle

It looks like it will take a long time.”

"Understood. Please give me the location of Bosch's unit and the surrounding terrain data». Thinking that this was starting to develop strangely, I received the data from Zead's unit and left the scene.

won't go into how I managed to salvage the Bosch plane that was stuck in the swamp, because it's just too tiring to even remember, and not very interesting. However, I want you to imagine how difficult the task was when you consider that in order to salvage the plane, the Bosch plane had to abandon both of its machine guns in the mud.

And then, physically or mentally exhausted, I was returning to the front of the control building with my muddy Bosch machine when Zead called out in a tense voice». Elsa! If you can move, Bosch, please come over here quickly! Latona has encountered a group that appears to be Zaftra soldiers inside the control building and is now in a state of combat! We need to provide support quickly, but my Wanzer can't get inside the building!»

« That's true, missiles won't do anything."

Bosch groaned as he hurriedly drove the Wanzer.

"But my Wanzer is barehanded, and I'll probably have to enter the building to get the data anyway. I'll have no choice but to go provide support unarmed».

"That's right. With allies inside, attacking the building from the outside with a Wanzer is too risky. Even if we avoid Latona's location and attack, we don't know how the repercussions will affect it, and we might even destroy the machine containing the data. I'll get off the Wanzer and join in to provide physical support."

When I told him, Bosch pointed out in a serious tone.

"Attacking with a Wanzer certainly poses a high risk, but the only personal weapons we have are the pilot's handguns. I don't know what the enemy is equipped with, but it's only natural that they have assault rifles . If we fought head-on without the Wanzers, we wouldn't have a chance of winning».

I pondered, wondering if there was any good plan.

entered the pipeline control facility building through the front entrance. According to the communication from our handheld, Latona was going to the computer floor on the eighth floor, and had just climbed the stairs to the sixth floor when she encountered a group of what appeared to be Zafra soldiers on that floor. They started firing without question, so we hurried down to the fifth floor, but people were coming up from the floors below and we were in danger of being caught in a pincer attack, so we fled to the fifth floor, broke the lock on a small room that looked like a storeroom, entered, and barricaded ourselves inside. If we couldn't expect any support from outside, we would have been nothing more than rats in a bag, but as a tactic to buy time and wait for support, it was indeed the right one. If I had...

Mission 12 9 XK >< b» Final Battle

I seriously doubt that I would have been able to act so calmly if I were in her position.

"The enemy are gathered in a chaotic fashion on both sides of the corridor that runs past the room where Latona is holed up. We'll hide in the staircase to the fifth floor and then rush out at the same time as Zead comes to our aid». I said in a nervous tone, even to myself, as I outlined the steps of our attack, and Bosch responded in his usual nonchalant manner.

"If we were to get into a proper shootout, we would have no chance of winning, neither in terms of weapons nor numbers. Timing is everything."

"That's right."

Gripping my handgun tightly, I nodded. Although I had received a full range of individual combat and shooting training in the French army, as a Wanzer pilot I had never been in actual combat without armour. To be honest, during my time in the French army, I had never even seen actual combat in a Wanzer, so it was only natural.

In that respect, Bosch, who had experienced the hellish situation in Huffman, had a different experience of going through hell. Although I hadn't confirmed it, it was probably not his first time in combat with his own body. He took out his handheld communicator and sent a message in a calm voice.

"It's Bosch. Elsa and I have reached the stairs to the fifth floor. Please help us», a group of men who appeared to be Zafra soldiers on the other side of the corridor called out, as if they had heard the voice.

at that moment they aimed what appeared to be assault rifles in my direction.

A powerful impact shook the building, and the Zafra soldiers were taken by surprise and mowed down. Zead, who had switched to the Latona machine, aimed at the area where the enemies were gathered and slammed a pile bunker into the building from outside. Of course, a single hit from the pile bunker had tremendous destructive power, but compared to firing a machine gun or a shotgun at a building, the area of damage could be limited much more narrowly.

And, having anticipated the impact of the pile bunker and prepared ourselves, we jumped out from behind the stairs at the same time the Zafra soldiers were mowed down. As per the prearranged plan, I aimed my handgun at the arms and legs of the Zafra soldiers who were trying to get up, but Bosch was no match for them. He was the first to pick up the assault rifle the enemy had dropped, and leaving the fallen soldiers to me, he fired a volley at the enemy who was trying to get up a short distance away». Elsa, if you can handle it, it would be more advantageous to use the assault rifle."

"Ah, when?"

After quickly running out of bullets in my handgun, I picked up an assault rifle as instructed. Of course, there are many different parts to the guns used by the French military, but the basic structure seems to be the same.

Mission 12 final battle

At that moment, Lato Na came rushing out of the room she had been holed up in. She had a handgun in her hand, but she didn't seem about to fire it, and just ran towards me.

"Okay, we've escaped successfully. Let's continue on and go up to the computer floor."

With that, Bosch picked up another assault rifle and tossed it to Latona, and we sprinted towards the stairs.

"Do you think they'll regroup and attack again?» Latona asked Bosch, as the three of them were starting to get out of breath after running up the stairs from the fifth floor to the sixth, seventh, and eighth floors in one go. Bosch shook his head.

"I don't know. In the first place, we don't know the enemy's numbers, their morale, or how much damage they've caused, so it's impossible to make an estimate."

"That's right. No matter how the enemy responds, we just need to achieve our goal."

Saying that, Latona quickly readjusted her assault rifle and stepped into the computer room. Bosch followed, walking over to one of the many control terminals lined up, powering it on and starting it up.

"Okay, it looks like the operational data hasn't been erased. Just download it to a data disk and take it with you."

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

Bosch glared with relief as he quickly tapped the keyboard. Then Latona asked somewhat suspiciously.

"Why didn't they wipe the data like they did in Wassau? They had plenty of time."

"Unlike Wassau, Kursk Station is still in operation. If we were to delete the operational data carelessly, it could have a negative impact on the entire pipeline».

Bosch responded as he inserted a data disk into the terminal's slot. it's odd that the Zafra's military, who won't hesitate to blow up the pipeline if necessary, would hesitate to do something like that. Maybe they didn't even realize that we were after the operational data."

"Exactly."

Suddenly, a heavy voice rang out from the entrance to the computer room. Latona reflexively fired her assault rifle, but the giant shadow standing in the entrance dodged with surprising speed». Are you going to start a shootout without asking any questions? You guys may be able to hide in the shadows, but that won't be the case with terminals and data disks. Will you give up on the operational data and fight me?»

"Brigadier General Gleaser:..."

Bosch groaned in a bitter voice.

Mission 12 9 X b X b»

final battle

"If you're in Kursk now, does that mean you were acting on Zaftra's orders ? To be honest, I didn't want to believe it."

"So you are Lieutenant Dieter Bozush, a former member of the German army and member of Durandal. Have you overcome your experiences on Huffman Island?"

With that said, Brigadier General Gleaser stepped into the computer room. Wearing what resembled a Wanzer pilot suit, and holding a large machine gun rather than an assault rifle, his appearance was, without metaphor or exaggeration, as imposing as a Wanzer.

I am not loyal to Zaftra. Even though the Zaftra people cooperated with Wagner, they were reluctant to follow my orders. If they had followed my orders, the pipeline operation data would have been erased and you would have been facing a platoon of Zaftra troops in this room, but, well, now that things have come to this, that's a minor issue."

"If you are not a man loyal to Zaftra, then it is even more difficult to understand. Why did you join forces with Zaftra and betray E.C.? Was it out of obligation to the German Chancellor, who was involved in pipeline smuggling?"

Bosch asked in a serious tone. Gleaser shook his head slightly». That's not true either. It's not about winning or losing an election, or whether or not your secret dealings with a company will be revealed.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

The petty thoughts of the Ji family have nothing to do with me.

I simply wanted my homeland, Germany, to be strong and strong. To that end, I have served in the military and dedicated my life to maintaining public order. However, the situation both inside and outside Germany is moving in a direction I do not want and fear. The pipeline to Zaftra, which was built at great expense, was abolished by a single resolution of E.C., and we must look to Poland and neighboring countries for the resources we need for our military. Moreover, the foolish generals of the army did not organize the military, which was built with our scarce resources, into an effective mobile force, but instead made it into a fixed defensive force. No matter how many new and high-performance wanzers you have, it is meaningless if you just stand there like a scarecrow in the base. I have repeatedly put my job on the line to make recommendations, and in the end, I have tried to use as much influence as I can to change the current situation of the German army, even going so far as to curry favor with politicians.

But in the end, nothing changed."

"So, you had the Zaftran army attack a German army base?» Bosch groaned, and Gleaser gave a soft laugh. When they first met, I thought it was impossible to imagine this man laughing, but when I actually saw him, it wasn't a terrifying or insane laugh, but a terrifyingly lonely, self-deprecating smile.

"That's right. The destruction of five army bases and the complete annihilation of the German Army, except for Blauer Nebel, was ultimately due to nothing other than my anger at the German Army, which was content with a paper tiger.

No. The plan proposed by Zaftra was to strike a new resource-rich area in Poland, but I responded that in order to strike Poland, it was necessary to destroy the German military bases first, and that destroying the German military bases would be easy if we could catch them by surprise. In reality, attacking Poland first would have been more effective as it would have been a complete surprise attack, but I really wanted to destroy the useless German military bases first.

However, the price was high. Because this was an incident within Germany, I expected that I could use my authority to fabricate any investigation I wanted, but you guys from Durandal unexpectedly intervened. The landing point in Denmark that we had prepared as a fake retreat route was seized first, and the defenses of the new resource areas in Poland were strengthened, leaving Wagner and I at a loss, but the Zaftra side said that they absolutely could not change the plans for the attack on Poland. We had no choice but to go ahead with the operation, but thanks to your efforts the new resource areas in Poland were not annihilated, and the retreating troops were pursued, forcing Blauer Nebel to provide support, knowing that suspicions would be aroused. Because of this, I lost the trust of both Germany and Zaftra, and I was forced to hand over command of Blauer Nebel to Wagner».

"I see. So Blauer Nebel's sabotage of the Iberia Megafloat was not your order».

Bosch said in a tone that sounded almost sympathetic. Gleaser nodded with a self-deprecating smile.

"If we were to do something like that, then, whether we succeed or fail, Blauer Nebel would certainly not be able to continue. To me, the organization known as Blauer Nebel was the work I had devoted my life to, but to Zaftra, it was nothing more than an expendable item."«In that case, Your Excellency, Brigadier General, you should return to Germany and reveal everything. If you carry on like this, you will be seen as a pawn of Zaftra, just like Wagner. That would be an unwelcome assessment even for you."

Bosch urged him with a firmer voice. But Gleaser shook his head». No, it would be more convenient for Germany, which will soon have to face the merciless denunciations of the E.C. countries, if we were to say that it was all a conspiracy by Zaftra and that I was also his pawn. If I were to return, it would only cause unnecessary chaos». Saying this, Gleaser's expression returned to its solemn, frightening expression and continued.

"Thank you, Lieutenant Bosch, for listening to the complaints of a man who lost everything because of his anger towards his country. You all take the data disk and head to E.C. I will remain in Zaftra."

"That's not possible. It may be inconvenient for Germany, but you have a duty to make the truth public to the victims and their families». Latona spoke harshly, and suddenly pointed the assault rifle at Gleaser.

Mission 12 ,Stochat. final battle

I threw it at him. I guess I knew he might shoot, but I didn't expect him to throw a weapon, and Gleaser looked a little flustered and knocked the assault rifle down. Meanwhile, Latona pulled out her handgun and fired at Gleaser's leg. However, even though I was sure she had hit him, there was no blood spurting from Gleaser's leg, and he didn't even move. Before I even realized it was bulletproof armor, I fired my assault rifle repeatedly, but it had no effect, and Gleaser fled the room.

"wait!"

"No, don't chase!"

Bosch stops Latona as she begins to jump out.

"Are you going to show me mercy?"

As Latona turned around with a grim expression, Bosch responded calmly.

"That's not true. He's equipped with a machine gun and bulletproof armor. If we were to fight honestly, we would clearly be at a disadvantage. There may still be Zaftranians left, so we should secure the data disk and quickly go outside and get on the Wanzer».

"Hmm"

Snorting, Latona stopped and picked up the assault rifle she had thrown. Bosch then removed the disk containing the downloaded pipeline operation data from the terminal and inserted it into the case.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

He put the money in his wallet and placed it in the inside pocket of his uniform, then said as if nothing had happened.

"Come on, let's pull it out."

"Yeah, Gleaser ."

As they each got into their vans and headed to the airfield that the First Airborne Force had secured, Zead let out a complicated voice when he heard that Brigadier General Gleaser had shown up at the pipeline control facility building.

"Even so, the attack on the German military base was ultimately just a way for him to vent his frustration. In a sense, the Zaftra's military was also used."

"That's right. If the new resource areas in Poland had been attacked and completely destroyed as the Zaftran army had intended from the beginning, the situation and developments would have been very different».

Latona responded in a brusque tone.

"Although, I think that in that case, suspicion may have fallen on Zaftra sooner. If E.C. is no longer able to procure its own resources, it is clear that Zaftra will be the one who benefits the most. It is a shortsighted, transparent, and foolish crime, on the level of setting fire to a rival's store just because your products aren't selling».

"I had recorded what Gleaser said on my mobile phone. I turned on the record button right away.

Mission, 12 Rhymes

But it seems to have been recorded surprisingly clearly.

Bosch announced in a matter-of-fact tone.

"I don't know if this is valid as testimony or not, but I think it would be best to have Deputy Secretary Allison hear it, what do you think?»

"That's right. This operation was led by the British Army. The spoils of war must be handed over to the sponsor."

Jid replied in a somewhat sarcastic tone.

"However, if we were to suddenly tell Prime Minister Noland directly, things might get confusing. It would be best to go through Undersecretary Allison».

"Look. It looks like a transport plane has landed on the airport."

The jet-black stealth transport plane came down, making a faint noise that was hard to believe was that of an airplane descending. At the time, I had no doubt that if we got on this plane and left Kursk, this incident would be closed, but I was wrong.

"Operation objective accomplished. No personnel losses. Equipment losses: one Wanzerr, four Wanzerr cannons. That's all."

Colonel Telford confirmed this in a perfectly calm tone, and the transport plane carrying us immediately took off from the airfield.

"Are you going back to London?"

"No, I'm going to Paris."

When Zead asked, Colonel Telford answered nonchalantly.

"Prime Minister Noland is currently in Paris to deliver a speech to the E.C. Parliament. We have been ordered to deliver the results of the Kursk expedition directly to him."«Paris...?"

When Zead frowned and groaned, Colonel Telford asked suspiciously». What's the matter? Is there something inconvenient about being in Paris?"«Well, in the Zaftra's military documents we obtained from a Venezuelan collaborator, there was a flight route from Venezuela to Madeira, and a flight route from Venezuela to France. When we first got the documents, we had no idea why the Zaftra's military had set up such flight routes, but the route to Madeira was actually used as a surprise attack on the USN fleet that had occupied the island.

So what is the remaining route to France? Whether or not the Venezuelan Zaftran army would actually use that route to launch an attack is a different matter, but it seems like they had a plan to launch a surprise attack on the E.C. Parliament in Paris», Zead explained. Colonel Telford's eyes widened.

Mission 12 ,Stobat Final Battle

"Are you saying that the Zaftran army is going to launch a surprise attack on Paris from Venezuela? When and why ?"

"It's only a guess, but it seems that the Venezuelan Zaftra's military wanted to keep the USN Atlantic Fleet pinned down in the E.C. direction. For that to happen, it was necessary for E.C.'s military strength to be weakened and fighting to break out on Madeira, but at the same time, it would be troublesome if the USN fleet won too easily. For that reason, they probably intended to carry out sabotage or surprise attacks depending on the situation, and make the battle a quagmire», Zead said in a matter-of-fact tone.

"If we consider it as the double link of such a strategy, a surprise attack on Paris is not an impossible tactic at all. If the sabotage of the Iberia Megafloat fails and the Esperanto combined fleet is about to repel the USN• fleet, it would be extremely effective as a diversion tactic."«However, in reality, Esperanto and the USN• have already escaped from the state of war, and the USN• fleet is moving towards Venezuela. There would be no benefit to the Zaftran army in a surprise attack on Paris in these circumstances», Colonel Telford pointed out, and Zead nodded, looking a little gloomy.

"Objectively, that is true. However, it is possible that the Venezuelan Zaftra's military no longer has the capacity to objectively assess the situation. If control from the home country was in order, there would be no problem, but if the execution of the operation is left to the judgment of the local commander, it is not uncommon for them to fall into the illusion that they can overcome a hopeless situation by succeeding in a desperate operation.

"...That's a tricky story."

groaned Colonel Telford, frowning.

"And has this possibility been pointed out to Paris?"

"I told Undersecretary Allison when I handed her the documents from the Zaftran army. However, the local French army and police are in charge of security at the E.C. Parliament, so I can't say for sure if that information got through to them», Zead replied, and I was startled as I listened to his answer.

I don't know the details of how the French E.C. Parliamentary Guard is organized, but I can confirm that they do not deploy Wanzers. And the French Army, which is still outdated and only equipped with tanks and armored cars, cannot compete with the Wanzer troops unless they are vastly outnumbered.

Then Colonel Telford spoke with a serious expression.

"Well, on the other hand, our going to Paris may unexpectedly strengthen our military strength. Of course, it would be best if nothing happens, but we should keep ourselves in a state where we can always take part in actual battles."

"That's true. France's air defense system is by no means weak, and it's not even certain that the Zaftran army will move in the first place. I hope this turns out to be a false alarm, but I have a bad feeling about this.

Mission 12 final battle

There's no other way."

Zead groaned, and Colonel Telford nodded.

"Yeah. Your premonitions have always been good, especially when they turn out to be bad. You can't just ignore the bad premonitions of the Grim Reaper Zead."

"I'm just a coward. I'm nothing like the State Department's doomsday prophet», Zead replied with a wry smile, to which Colonel Telford retorted with a straight face», But from what I've seen, you and Under Secretary Allison seem to make a good team. Could it be that the reason we were called to Paris was because the Under Secretary, like you, had a bad feeling and took action ?"

"I don't know that much, though."

Zead groaned, his expression slightly taken aback.

"In any case, let's hurry to Paris."

"I have a bad feeling about this too."

Deputy Secretary Allison, who welcomed us in Paris, told us with a complicated expression.

"But I can't call up the British vanguard just because I have a premonition. If I did that, the French, who were in charge of security, would be killed, regardless of whether there was an attack or not.

It would be a total shame.

The situation was already in a state of chaos as opinions were divided over what to do about Germany. We couldn't add any more trouble to the situation. The best we could do was to get the First Airborne Corps and Durandal to come, on the pretext that they were attending as observers». «Yeah, I understand how troublesome the situation is."

Zead nodded with a serious expression.

"By the way, as you may have already heard, I encountered Gleaser at Kursk. I have a recording of his recollections, but it's up to you to decide what to do with it."

"That's a difficult question. Basically, I think we'll have to conclude that Zaftra was the mastermind behind the conspiracy, and that Germany was complicit in it but was also a victim at the same time. But Poland is seeking compensation from Germany. Spain and Portugal are also preparing to hold Germany responsible for the destruction of the Iberia Megafloat by the Blauer Nebel. For now, France is neutral, but depending on how things develop, it's unclear how things could turn out.

In reality, it's nearly impossible to get compensation from Zaftra, so there's a strong feeling that they should at least tighten the screws on Germany. I understand their feelings, but even if E.C. pursues responsibility and demands compensation within the country, it's futile because it will only deepen the gap between member countries. Negotiations with the USN regarding Madeira Island are still to come.

Mission 12 ,Stobat

Final Battle

"Phew», Deputy Secretary Allison sighed heavily.

"If Zaftra really went crazy and launched a surprise attack on Paris, it would become clear who the enemy is, and things might move faster. Also, if the EC members and heads of state were to feel truly in danger, it might lead to a little more solidarity."«Well, I can more than imagine why you'd want to say that », Zead started to say, when Undersecretary Allison's handheld radio started to ring.

"Excuse me for a moment."

The Vice Minister refused, took out his portable radio and held it to his ear, but the next moment, his expression suddenly became tense.

".....Thank you for contacting us. We will deal with it as soon as possible."

After quickly saying this and hanging up her handheld, Undersecretary Allison looked at Zead and sighed». You've predicted another disaster. France's air defense network has been breached by a squadron of unidentified aircraft heading straight for Paris. Unless this is a mistake, I think an official warning will be issued shortly, but I think it's most likely the Zaftra forces that flew in from Venezuela. If I may say so myself, I'm still a prophet of disaster."

"Well, if we can get through this crisis successfully, it might strengthen the unity of E.C. At the very least, Durandal's reputation will increase.

Zead responded reassuringly.

're supposed to stay with the Prime Minister, correct?»

"Yes. I'm really sorry for calling you guys who aren't even part of the British Army, and getting you involved in this troublesome situation, but please, I'd appreciate your help. I wish you the best of luck."

When Deputy Secretary Allison told him, Zead responded sincerely.

"You too, please be careful."

military will be responsible for dealing with the unidentified, suspicious aircraft and the suspicious Wanzers that have descended from it. If your Wanzers appear, it will cause chaos, so please, please, do not leave the transport plane."

, who was already in his van when a young French officer claiming to be in charge of security at the E.C. Assembly Hall informed him of this, responded sarcastically.

"So you're saying that the French military doesn't even have the ability to read the Wanzers' identification signals? If that's the case, I have no choice but to follow your orders since I don't want to be shot by my allies, but if the French military is wiped out, please contact me immediately. We have the right and the obligation to protect ourselves, our own leaders and our own politicians. Even if you apologize later, it won't be worth a damn.

Mission 12 final battle

« When we determine that we need your cooperation, we will request it at that time. Until then, I ask that you refrain from any actions that may disrupt the situation. That's all». With that, the French officer said in an indignant tone and hung up the phone. Then Zead said with a wry smile.

"Your words will only provoke them. But if you don't provoke them, the French will not soften up."

would be a good medicine for the French, with their obsolete equipment and their useless pride», Colonel Telford said rather casually.

"Honestly, from my point of view, as long as the safety of Prime Minister Noland, Under Secretary Allison and his staff, and British Senator E.C. can be ensured, then nothing else matters. The shelter in the parliament building is not something that would be breached even if one or two Wanzers crashed into it, so barring an extremely unfortunate accident, the Prime Minister and the Senators should not be in danger. Besides, if a Wanzer from the Zaftran army gets as far as this parking area, we will of course deploy, no matter what the French army says. If we don't protect ourselves, there's no point in talking."«That's natural, but are we really going to wait that long?"

Colonel Telford answers Zead's question as if it were natural.

"Of course, if the French army requests our cooperation, we'll head out right away. But we can't compete with the panicked French tank crew who, upon seeing a Wanzer, start firing without asking any questions.

Besides, I don't know how many Wanzers the Zafran army has deployed, but they were brought in by airborne transport planes, so it can't be an overwhelming number. It's possible that the French army alone could repel them."«I wonder about that? Didn't the Zafran army's transport planes come in formation?» As Zead said suspiciously, a communication came in, this time from the French army.

"This is E.C. Assembly Hall Security Headquarters.

"It is with shame that we announce that our French army and police ground forces have been overwhelmed by an unknown vanguard and are unable to fulfill their duties of guarding the E.C. Assembly Hall», a voice that sounded much older than the officer from earlier, possibly a colonel or even a general, announced in a bitter tone.

"In this emergency, under the authority and responsibility of the Chief of Security of the E.C. Parliamentary Building, I officially request the First Airborne Corps of the British Army and the Wanzers of the E.C. Land Tactical Research Institute Durandal to cooperate in the defense of the E.C. Parliamentary Building. I regret to inform you that I have requested your cooperation, but the French ground forces will be taking measures to avoid firing by mistake.

Mission 12 Final Battle final battle

"We will be withdrawing from the area around the parliament building to allow time for the troops to return and regroup. Air forces will be arriving over Paris shortly, so we should be able to provide some support, but I would like you to use your powers to defend the E.C. Parliament Building."

"The British First Airborne Division has accepted a request for assistance from E.C. Parliament House Security Headquarters. We will be dispatching immediately to protect the Parliament House».

Colonel Telford responded in a dignified voice. Then Zead spoke in a solemn tone». This is the E.C. Land-Based New Tactics Research Institute Durandal, Tactical Research Department Wanzer Team. We have accepted a request for cooperation from the E.C. Assembly Hall Security Headquarters. We will do our utmost in the defense of the Assembly Hall."«Alright, let's go!"

Beck shouted in a hoarse voice. This time they weren't going to perform an airborne landing, but would launch from a landing transport plane, so Hermes and Betsuku would be able to join in without any problems.

And as they exited the transport plane, Hermes, equipped with a high-performance sensor, reported in a tense tone.

"According to French military data, the estimated number of unidentified wanzers is between 5 and 30. They are divided into two large groups, and are approaching the assembly hall from the south and west. This is a much larger force than we had expected!"

"So that means there's a group of about fifteen planes. That's bad. If we leave them alone and they launch a full-force attack,

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

The shelter could be breached in an instant."

Colonel Telford clicked his tongue, and Zead calmly made a suggestion.

"There is no other option than for the First Assault Force and Durandal to take separate action and each take on a group of enemies and attack them. It is tactically foolish for the weaker side to divide their forces, but it is unavoidable at this time."

"That's right. Then, the First Airborne Force will attack the group on the south side. Durandal, you go to the west side. I wish you the best of luck».

With that, Colonel Telford led his Wanzers south. Durandal continued straight west, and with the E.C. Assembly Hall behind it, they came face to face with a mysterious Wanzer unit, likely from the Zafran army.

However, there were fifteen of them and six of ours. If they hit directly, there would be no chance of winning. Before they got within missile engagement range, Zead gave orders.

"Betsuku, activate the system shutdown device!"

"Yotsushiyaatsu!"

Along with the spirited reply, the device on Bezuk's back, with parts that looked like wings or petals sticking out on all four sides, emitted a low buzzing sound. Though there was no opportunity to use it on the Kursk, the time had come to test the true value of the system down device, which had been adjusted to suit the Zafran army's Wanzers.

Mission 12 final battle

That's it.

As we watched with bated breath, roughly half of the enemy Wanzers stopped moving. However, before we could even think that it was over, the enemy Wanzers that were still operational all charged forward at once, firing missiles at Beck's machine.

"Wow!"

Even one missile was a big threat, but the Betsuku machine was hit by a barrage of missiles from a total of seven Wanzers, and was destroyed without a fight, the pilot ejected from the cockpit. At the same time, Zead shouted as he returned fire.

"All units charge! Most of the enemy Wanzers that are operational are equipped with missiles! Create a melee and strike them down before the system down effect wears off!»

"roger that!"

Latona's machine charged forward furiously, slamming a pile bunker into the midsection of the missile-equipped Ventour that was trying to move forward again. My machine followed, and was hit by a linked attack of shotgun shells, causing the missile- equipped machine to self-destruct, erupting in flames from its entire body.

"It's definitely a Zaftra suicide squad!"

Dodging the attack, I mercilessly fired my machine gun at the second missile-equipped plane, which hadn't been able to get close enough to attack. The Bosch plane then came running in and fired both machine guns at once, taking out three of them.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4 U

when the fourth missile-equipped unit tried to retreat and put some distance between them, Latona's unit furiously attacked it, taking it down with a single hit from the pile bunker. Then, Zead hit the fifth missile-equipped unit from the rear with a missile, which was half-destroyed, and Hermes' unit destroyed it. The sixth and seventh units, which were now reluctant to flee, were destroyed by Latona's and my units, who charged in and destroyed them with a linked attack, and the seventh missile-equipped Wanzer that had advanced to attack Beck's unit were all destroyed before they had the time to launch any more missile attacks.

However, perhaps because the system down device had been destroyed along with Beck's unit, the enemy Wanzers, which had stopped moving for a while, started to move again and attacked. Latona's unit, which had been pursuing the retreating missile-equipped unit, was hit by concentrated machine gun fire from four Wanzers that had suddenly started to move, and although it was able to block some of it with its shield, it received heavy damage to its legs. If two or more Wanzers were to attack simultaneously from different directions, it would be the same as a linked attack, and even Latona would not be able to dodge it all. However, she was not one to just let herself be defeated, and she charged into one of the Wanzers that had fired its machine gun fire and pierced its torso with a pile bunker, killing it, but she was caught up in the enemy's self-destruction and its legs were completely immobilized. Meanwhile, of the remaining three Wanzers that had attacked Latona, I killed one with simultaneous machine gun and shotgun fire, and Bosch destroyed another with a machine gun. Hermes' unit destroyed the remaining unit that had been hit by Zead's missiles with an additional attack. And so, four motionless Wanzers remained,

Mission 12 , to Stochat final battle

One of the planes seemed to have only had its self-destruct mechanism function properly, as it was suddenly engulfed in flames and charred, while the other three were captured unharmed.

"Somehow, it's all cleared up."

Zead asked in a careful tone to Hermes, who let out a deep sigh.

"About the remaining three units. Is there a chance that their systems will suddenly come back to life?"«I don't know. I'd say it's a 50/50 chance."

When Hermes groaned, Zead paused as if he was thinking for a moment, but then quickly gave orders». Okay. Hermes, you stay in the Wanzer, disarm these three units, and keep watch. There is a risk that their systems will be reactivated, but if we can capture them unharmed and avoid self-destruction, it will provide irrefutable evidence. However, don't think about opening the hatch and pulling out the pilots.

Latona, please get off the Wanzer and work with Hermes to keep an eye on these three units. I'm counting on you to deal with any cases in which the pilots open the hatch and try to escape. Thank you.

Beck, you go back to the transport and get in whatever Wanzer you like. If possible, I'd like you to bring some landing gear parts to repair the Latona, but if you can't decide, give priority to bringing the Wanzer. After we get the Wanzer, we'll have to go to Latona.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

Please follow Hermes' instructions.

"Bosch, Elsa, you two will come with me to support the First Airborne Forces. They are an elite unit, but they don't have system down devices, nor are they equipped with link system-equipped aircraft or missile-equipped mixed-type Wanzers. They're probably having a pretty tough time."«Plus, there's a chance Wagner is there."

Bosch glared softly.

"According to Gleaser, Wagner is loyal to Zafta. After escaping the Iberia Megafloat, he will likely have joined the Madeira Island attack force, so there's a good chance he's here.

He didn't seem to be with this group, so he's probably over there."

"Then you'll need even more support."

Growling in a bitter tone, Zead gave a command to the group.

"Latona, Hermes, Beck, please take care of this. Bosch, Elsa, follow me!"

"...As expected, you're having a hard time."

Zead went around to the south side of the EC assembly hall and groaned in a low voice, as if talking to himself.

The enemy group had dwindled to just five planes remaining, but the rest of the First Airborne Forces were led by Colonel Telford's commanding officer.

Mission 12 final battle

The three below. Moreover, three of the remaining five enemy units were equipped with missiles, attacking unilaterally from a long distance. So I thought I could close the distance and defeat them, but the remaining two stood in my way like an iron wall, stubbornly refusing to let me close the distance. And one of the two units acting as the vanguard was a Schnetzke Egel type. The other, I don't know the model name, but I'll never forget it, equipped with large machine guns on both hands, it was a large commander's Wanzer piloted by Major Wagner, the same one that had completely destroyed my unit in Batsau. Although the unit Wagner was piloting at the time had been destroyed by attacks from Zead's and Latona's units, it was probably a different unit of the same type, but even so, I had almost no doubt that the pilot was Wagner.

"The remnants of Blauer Nebel?"

Bosch dazzles in his bitter tone. Germany's elite Wanzer unit, Blauer Nebel, has now become synonymous with traitor. How many of the pilots who belonged to it escaped with Wagner on the Iberian Megafloat? And how many of them, like Wagner, were originally on the ZAFTRA side? Because the German army itself is in a state of chaos, the details are still unclear, but at least there is one person here who is following Wagner and working with the Zaftran army to destroy the core of E.C. I suddenly wondered what Brigadier General Gleaser, the founder of Blauer Nebel who remained in Kursk, would say if he saw this scene.

However, as if refusing such sentimentality, Wagner's large Wanzer and the Ekel-type Wanzer charged ferociously towards the E.C. Assembly Building. The tactical purpose of this was to advance the missile-equipped machines in the rear to launch missile attacks on the surviving members of the First Airborne Forces, but because the Wanzers looked so imposing and ferocious, it looked as if they were going to charge straight into the assembly building.

At that moment, we circled around from the west side of the building, and with Wagner's unit within striking distance, Zead's unit fired missiles without hesitation. In reality, if we wanted to destroy that monstrous large Wanzer, especially one with a vampire pilot called Wagner, with minimal casualties, the only way was to simply fire missiles at it from long distances.

, retreated along with the Egeltype Wandzer, firing its large machine gun wildly. Bosch's and my planes avoided Wagner's plane and went around from the side, aiming to directly attack the missile-equipped plane behind him. At the same time, the three surviving planes of the First Airborne Forces also cautiously advanced.

One of the missile-equipped planes took a somewhat reckless step forward and fired a missile at the Bosch plane. However, at that moment, the Bosch plane leapt into the air and hid in the shadow of a building. In the nick of time, the missile lost sight of its target, swerved far away, and crashed into the ground.

« Did you dodge the missile?"

Mission 12 9 x bpattle final battle

I was stunned for a moment at the maneuver of the Bosch's machine, which overturned the common sense that missiles cannot be dodged, but it seemed the enemy who fired the missiles was more shocked than I was. I quickly came to my senses and charged forward at full speed, bringing the missile-equipped machine within range, but the enemy Wanzer did not back down, dodge, or attack; it just stood there in shock. Of course, without hesitation, I fired my machine gun and shotgun simultaneously and destroyed the enemy missile-equipped machine.

However, looking at it objectively, I had pushed myself too far forward to attack this missile-equipped aircraft. Since I was always paired with Latona, I always felt safe knowing that she was even further ahead, no matter how far I went, but this time it wasn't the case.

And then, Wagner's machine, which had retreated, immediately attacked my machine, which was now isolated and helpless. I barely managed to dodge the first blow, as it was quite far away, but it still missed me by a hair, causing considerable damage to my fuselage. My movements had been perfectly read. I was once again convinced that my opponent was definitely Wagner.

"There's no way I can dodge the next attack. What should I do? Should I try to kill each other again?» Just as I was thinking this, a missile fired by Zead's unit hit Wagner's unit again. And at that moment, I jumped out before I could think.

"Go Ettsu!"

Without even waiting to see how the other side responded, I closed the gap and fired my machine gun and shotgun at the same time.

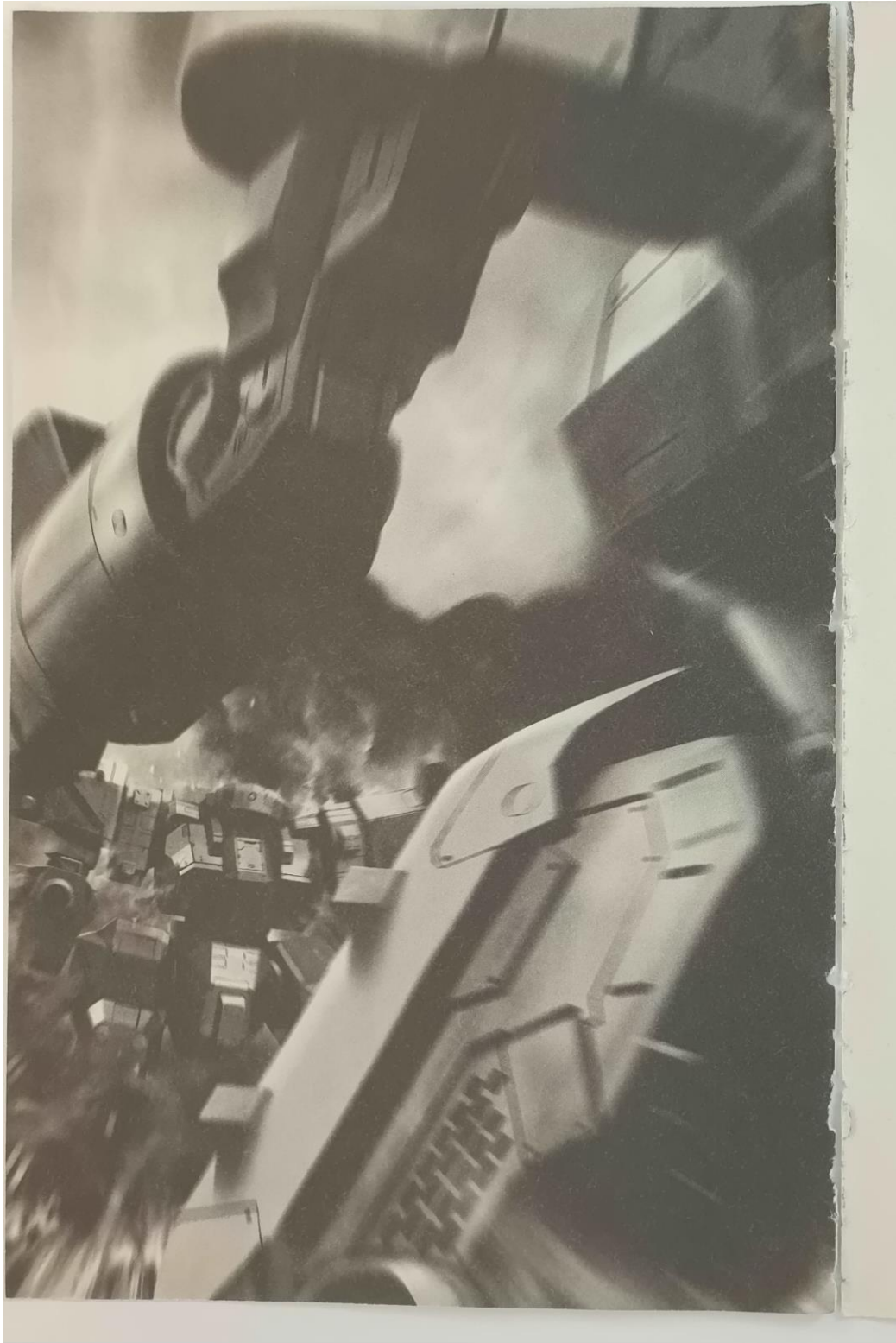
The Nah unit also fired its large machine gun. It was a repeat of the Wassau incident, but this time, it was my Wanzer that was standing when the firing ended.

had taken two direct missile hits before engaging me, so it may not have been fully functional. In any case, my attack caused the Wagner machine to completely stall, and the pilot was ejected from the cockpit. That said, my Wanzer, although it had barely managed to stop functioning, had received extensive damage to its torso and legs from a single hit from the large machine gun, and I was in a dire state that would have caused it to stall if I had made any poor moves. Even so, I tried to point my machine gun at the cockpit of the ejected Wagner machine, but before I could do so, the Egel-type Wanzer opened fire from its machine gun on my left». Woah!"

With my legs in this condition, there was no way to dodge. My Wanzer was standing upright.

The monitor was hit directly by a bullet. In an instant, all the display screens turned an eye-scorching crimson.

Alarm call, or rather, a harsh synthetic warning voice rang out from the headset. 0 EMERGENCY EMERGENCY BAILOUT» Emergency! Emergency! Ejection!"«Tch!» I thought for a moment, I had finally managed to defeat Wagner, but there was nothing I could do about it now. Rather, after I escaped, I would have to worry about being shot down along with my cockpit by an Egel-type Wanzer



No. Even though the enemy was not the Zafran army but Blauer Nebel, I couldn't imagine that at this point, the honor of not shooting the escaping Wanzer pilot would be respected». You've got to be kidding me! I can't stand dying in battle here!» As the ejected cockpit landed on the ground with a heavy thud, I quickly unbuckled my shock-resistant belt and unplugged the headset connection cord from the adapter, opened the hatch and jumped out of the cockpit.

However, there was no gunfire towards the cockpit as he had been expecting, and even when he looked upwards, there was no sign of an Egel-type Wanzer. The sounds of Wanzers fighting and missiles flying thunderously filled the air, but the source of the sounds seemed strangely far away.

In fact, I had no way of knowing since I was in ejection position, but right after they had fired on my unit and taken it down, the Egel-type Wanzer was surrounded and attacked by three Wanzers from the First Airborne Forces that had charged in from the front, and while it was damaged to the point of being rendered inoperable, it desperately retreated. Of course, the Wanzers from the First Airborne Forces were in hot pursuit, not wanting to let me get away, and I had been completely left behind in the flow of the battle.

"I wonder if it helped?"

Feeling a mixture of relief and despair, I looked around when a tall man jumped out from behind the wreckage of the Wanzer.

Mission 12 , Stopator

final battle

"Freeze"

« Wagner"

Wagner pointed the handgun he was holding at me without a moment's hesitation. Staring at his inhumanly handsome features, I regretted my carelessness, but it was too late». There's no point in doing something like this. Your defeat has already been decided."«Yeah, I know that."

Major Wagner nodded without showing any sign of being perturbed.

"In the sense that defeat was already certain, the moment we were unable to destroy the Iberia Megafloat as planned, our defeat was already certain. The subsequent attack on the USN fleet and this attack on the EC Congress were merely our final struggles, so to speak.

However, admitting defeat without exhausting all means may be honorable, but it goes against my principles. As long as I have this life, I will continue to struggle to the end. What are you planning to do?

When I asked Wagner, he answered matter-of-factly.

"You are a member of Durandal. Durandal is a united people, unlike any other group made up of many different nationalities. If we take you hostage, the other members won't let you die so easily."

After I said that, he looked a little suspicious and continued speaking.

"It is truly a mystery, indeed. Our plot certainly had many discrepancies and misfortunes, but in the end, it was thwarted by you Durandal. By the hands of a ragtag group with different nationalities, values, beliefs, and loyalties. Why is that?"«That's true. The Zafra people may not understand, as they are content as long as all citizens look up to a single set of values equally».

Half intending it to buy time, but the other half quite serious, I answered Wagner's questions.

"The strength of us at Durandal is our diversity. Members with different experiences, values, and ways of solving problems can each come up with a solution. If one person hits a wall, someone else will find a hole in it, and someone else will be able to find a way to go around it from the side. If everyone can only think the same way, then once one person hits a wall, that's it, right?"

"But diversity can also be a source of confusion, as in the current EC parliament», Wagner retorted in a serious tone. I thought he was being sarcastic, but it seems that's not the case.

"No matter how many different solutions you come up with, the ones you actually use are usually...

Mission 12 final battle

"There is only one solution. And since everyone will claim that their solution is the best, things will get chaotic and stall before a solution can be implemented. But you Durandals, for some reason, have managed to thwart our plans without causing any chaos or stalling. I'm sure it's not just diversity that gives you your strength».

"Other than diversity, I think it's about trust and respect among team members. If you recognize other team members as talented people with abilities that clearly surpass yours in some areas, you won't make ridiculous claims that the solution you present is always the best. Everyone has their strengths and weaknesses."

After saying that, I suddenly thought, perhaps this man, Wagner, had no need to acknowledge others because he had the outstanding ability to deal with any situation.

However, judging from Wagner's reaction to my words, this did not seem to be the case. He was dazzled, his smile showing signs of admiration.

"Normally, mutual trust and respect. It's true that there were a few people worthy of my trust and respect. However, since I had been living in a foreign country since I was a child, undercover, under the guise of someone else's name and identity, I was not allowed to present myself as worthy of their trust and respect.

I don't regret the life I dedicated to the Greater Zaftra Republic. However, I can only say that it was a shame that I was not able to show my true self to those who I wanted to be friends with.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

I was born a masked man, destined to betray those around me who deserved my trust and respect. What would my life have been like if I hadn't been that way?

"Wagner:•:"

I felt a deep emotion that was neither pity nor grief, and my eyes lit up. And then, at that moment.

A Wanzer with machine guns in both hands raced past us at high speed, not far from us. The model was a Tatou I •••• Bosch, the same machine as my downed one!

"Bosch!"

I shouted without thinking, forgetting that no one could hear me. When Wagner heard my name, I thought for a moment that his expression had become very complicated, but it might have just been my imagination. And in the next moment, a missile that had been fired from afar at Bosch's aircraft lost sight of its target, went astray, and exploded on impact with the ground.

"Kiyaatsu!"

Reflexively, I lowered myself and clutched my head. Just in the nick of time, a blast of heat and wind roared past my head. I was saved because I happened to be in the shade, but I was so far away that it would not have been surprising if I had been blown away head on.

Mission 12, Final Battle

And when the aftereffects of the explosion subsided and I cautiously raised my head and looked around, Wagner was nowhere to be seen.

Epilogue Gudulandar Headquarters

"In the end, will it all be concluded that the Zaftra politicians, military personnel, and bureaucrats who were ousted in this coup were to blame?» I asked, a little dissatisfied, as I glanced at the newspaper headlines reporting a large-scale coup in the Republic of Zaftra.

"Even if we blame it on mistakes made by the previous administration or the military going out of control, I don't think the country can escape responsibility».

"That's true. But whether it's E.C. or the USN, they can't tighten the screws to the point where Zaftra explodes again. They're a strong nation militarily, even without plotting underhanded schemes», Latona replied, sipping tea.

"Even though Germany has seen a change of government through the elections, it will likely take some time for things to settle down."«Yeah, that's true.

For now, it seems they are focusing on uncovering Zaftra's spy network, but that alone won't fundamentally solve the problem."

Bosch nodded with a complicated expression.

"Instead of trying to build up strength in Germany alone, we need to think about how to improve the defense capabilities of the entire EC.

Epilogue Durandal Headquarters

I think that even if time passes, people will just be wary of me, but it's not easy."

"It's extremely difficult for countries to maintain cooperation between each other», Latona said, shrugging.

"Especially when it comes to a large family like E.C.'s."

"But I think the unique feature of the E.C. system is that nations cooperate with each other on an equal footing, no matter how difficult it may be. If there is a powerful core and the rest of the world is simply pulled along by the core's will, then it's no different from the USN or Zafra». I was dazzled as I recalled the conversation I had had on the battlefield with Wagner, whose life or death is still unknown.

"Even this Durandal is made up of people from completely different positions who are working together to make the most of their individuality and achieve great results. I don't think that what can be done between people can't be done between countries».

"Yes, that's right."

Saying that, Bosch laughed softly.

"We, Durandal, are the model case that E.C. should aim to be."«I mean, since Hermes and I are part of it too, there's no need to limit it to E.C., right?» Latona smiled and looked around at us.

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

"If the world, including the U.S.N. and Zafra, could cooperate on an equal footing, perhaps the commonwealth would gradually become more stable.

"And it'll be a nice place to live. Like this cozy Durandal break room."«In that case, we'd really like to have members from OCU», Bosch glared, and Hebeck came in.

"Hey, are you all here?! News, news! We have a new member joining Arrow 7!"

Latona asked Beck, who was talking noisily.

Oceana

"Is he from OCU?"

"Yes, that's right. What, you knew?» he asked in confusion, to which Latona replied with a laugh.

"Well, I'm not saying that, but we were talking about how if we were to have a new member, it would have to be from OCU».

"Oh, I see. But this guy looks like he'll be an immediate asset. He's from O-U-tralia, and apparently he served as a mercenary in the Huffman conflict». Beck had probably only just heard about it, and he happily shared the information. Latona nodded, her smile turning a little fiercer.

"I see. Well, then, we'll have to gather all the members who are free to greet them. It'll be two or so, so we'll have to fight back.

Epilogue Durandal Headquarters

I might be killed in the process.”

Oceana:» Well, I don't really care who wins the mock battle, but if he's a former mercenary, he might have some unique tactics. I'm starting to get a bit interested», Bosch said with amusement. So I sighed and shrugged.

"If you're going to challenge the new members to a mock battle soon after arriving, you should make sure to talk it through with Zead first. I absolutely don't want to be made to clean the portable toilets as punishment."«Yeah! I completely agree! If we're going to have a mock battle, then we should do the groundwork first, not do it suddenly that might get us punished! Let's do that!» Beck shouted exaggeratedly, as if remembering a bitter experience from before.

Then Latona spoke with a wry smile.

"If I were to propose a mock battle, Zead might think I'm bullying the newbie and reject it. Elsa, could you please go through with it?»

"Yes, sure."

Briefing I

I nodded, stood up and headed for central control.

I was looking forward to finding out what kind of person my new friend would be.

FIN

Toru Akitsu

Born February 16, 1960 in Tokyo. Graduated from the School of Literature at Waseda University. Debuted in 1988 with» Majuu Senshi Luna Varga». His highly original writing style has led to many popular series. His main works include» Majuu Senki Neo Varga» (Kadokawa Sneaker Bunko)», Harpuia Funsenki» (Haruki Bunko)», After School Space War» and» Toki Fuunroku» (Famitsu Bunko).

<http://homepage3.nifty.com/akitsushima/>

GAME NOVELS Front Mission 4

~Elsa # 2~

First edition published on October 5, 2004

Original work: PS2 software» Front Mission 4»

©2003 SQUARE ENIX CO.,LTD. All Rights Reserved.

CHARACTER DESIGN: YUSUKE NAORA

Author: Toru Akitsu

Publisher: Koji Taguchi

Publisher: Square Enix Co., Ltd.

Postal code 151-8544

3-22-7 Yoyogi, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo

Shinjuku Bunka Quinto Building 3rd floor

Business hours: 03 (5333) 0832

Book Editing 03 (5333) 0879

Printing company: Kato Seihan Printing Co., Ltd.

Any misprinted or missing pages will be replaced.

The price is shown on the cover.

©2004 Toru Akitsu

2004 SQUARE ENIX

Printed in Japan

ISBN4-7575-1290-2 C0293